

Jordan to attend talks on holy places

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will take part in a meeting of the Jerusalem Committee in the Moroccan city of Marrakech on Jan. 21, under the chairmanship of King Hassan II of Morocco. The committee, formed by the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC), will discuss Israel's measures against Al Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem and Al Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron, and will make a review of the general conditions of holy places in Jerusalem. Foreign Minister Faher Al Masri and Minister of Waqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat will attend the meeting and will submit a memorandum on the recent Israeli measures in Arab Jerusalem and Hebron in violation of the sanctity of the holy places there and also on Israel's plans against other holy places in the occupied Arab territories.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية، الراي.

Evren begins visit to Egypt

CAIRO (AP) — Turkish President Kenan Evren arrived on Saturday for a four-day state visit, returning a visit to Turkey last year by President Hosni Mubarak. Mr. Mubarak was at Cairo international airport to greet Mr. Evren. The first Turkish president ever to visit Egypt, Mr. Evren flew in from Tunisia, his first stop of a three-nation tour. After Egypt, he will go to Qatar. Mr. Evren and Mr. Mubarak were to have two rounds of talks, the first set for Sunday. Egyptian officials said the main topics will be Arab-Israeli peace efforts, the Iran-Iraq war now in its sixth year and bilateral relations. The Middle East News Agency said relations between Egypt and Turkey have developed steadily in the last few years. The volume of trade increased from \$19 million in 1979 to \$150 million last year, it said.

Volume 11 Number 3073

AMMAN, SUNDAY JANUARY 19, 1986, JUMADA AWWAL 8, 1406

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Syria 1 pound; Lebanon 1 pound; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams; Great Britain 25 pence

Khatib to visit Syria next month

AMMAN (J.T.) — Information Minister Mohammad Khatib will lead a delegation of communications specialists to Damascus early February in response to an invitation by Syrian Information Minister Yassin Rajjoub. Mr. Khatib is expected to hold talks with Mr. Rajjoub on media coordination between the two nations within the latest contacts aimed at strengthening bilateral relations.

Peres to meet Murphy in The Hague

THE HAGUE (AP) — Israeli Premier Shimon Peres is scheduled to meet here Sunday with the U.S. special envoy to the Middle East, Richard Murphy, who is in Europe to arrange an international conference on Middle East problems, a knowledgeable Western diplomatic source here confirmed on Saturday. Peres arrives on a three-day visit to The Netherlands on Sunday, amidst tight security brought on by a week-long national alert for possible extremist strikes in northern Europe (See page 2). Mr. Murphy, the State Department's assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern affairs, left Washington on Friday for meetings with Middle East leaders in London, according to the State Department.

Zayed in Rabat

RABAT (R) — Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahayan, president of the United Arab Emirates, arrived in Morocco on Saturday to meet King Hassan II. Mr. Zayed's visit was part of a series of visits by Arab leaders to Morocco, which is a member of a reconciliation committee set up by an extraordinary Arab summit in Casablanca last August to mediate between Libya and Iraq, and Libya and the Palestine Liberation Organisation. As a result of a first meeting of the committee here last year, Libya has ended press campaigns against Iraq, the sources said.

Columbia lands

EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE, California (R) — The space shuttle Columbia ended a problem-plagued mission on the sands of the California desert on Saturday after bad weather prevented a touchdown at Cape Canaveral, Florida, for the third time in three days. Columbia, carrying a crew of seven, touched down at 8:58 a.m. (1558 GMT).

Whitehead, Ozal discuss Libya

ANKARA (R) — A senior U.S. official had talks on Saturday in Ankara aimed at rallying support for U.S. sanctions against Libya, but said he expected no immediate Turkish action. Deputy Secretary of State John Whitehead told an airport news conference he believed Prime Minister Turgut Ozal, who answered a U.S. call for help in isolating Libya by saying Ankara's close ties with Tripoli came first, would now change his views. Mr. Whitehead later left Ankara for Athens, the next stop on his tour of nine NATO states.

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Berri, Junblatt step up pressure on Gemayel

Karami meets Khaddam in Damascus Leftist fighters continue to hit Bikfaya

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Two pro-Syrian leaders stepped up political and military pressure on President Amin Gemayel on Saturday to revive a Syrian-sponsored peace agreement to end Lebanon's civil war.

Prime Minister Rashid Karami, Parliament Speaker Hussein Husseini and Education Minister Salim Al Hoss were meeting Syrian leaders in Damascus in response to an urgent Syrian summons. As artillery duels raged around Mr. Gemayel's stronghold of Bikfaya above Beirut, Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) leader Wahid Junblatt threatened a boycott of Mr. Gemayel, and Shi'ite Amal militia leader Nabih Berri said his term of office should be cut. Mr. Junblatt said Mr. Gemayel should be shunned after the president's men helped overthrow "Lebanese Forces" militia commander "Elie" Hobeika, the Christian signatory to the Syrian-backed militia pact to end Lebanon's conflict.

Mr. Hobeika was defeated in east Beirut battles on Wednesday which left at least 200 people dead and the accord in tatters. "Whoever deals with the Lebanese regime and accepts compromise is a traitor," Mr. Junblatt said. "Clouds of new local and regional wars are appearing."

U.S. vetoes Security Council resolution on South Lebanon

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The United States on Friday vetoed a resolution in the U.N. Security Council that again demanded the withdrawal of Israeli troops from Lebanon although it had been toned down in an attempt to avoid a veto.

The resolution stopped short of condemning the Israelis for "acts of violence" in the occupied south as had been proposed in a text offered by Lebanon on Monday.

But Patricia Byrne, the American delegate, still contended that the text was one-sided. Britain, Denmark and Australia abstained in the vote. Eleven members, including France, supported the resolution.

Lebanese delegate Rashid Fakhoury implicated Israel in the Security Council after Israeli troops and Israeli-allied militia staged several attacks in the past few weeks causing casualties and damage in southern Lebanon.

Iraqis raid Kharg and Iranian positions

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraqi warplanes on Saturday raided Iranian positions in the southern marshes and the major Iranian oil terminal of Kharg Island in the Gulf waters to "shatter the forces of aggression," a military spokesman said.

The spokesman said Iraqi jet fighters carried out 93 bombing raids against Iranian positions, weapons and equipment in the east of Tigris sector of the 1,180-kilometre-long Gulf war front.

The term east of Tigris sector refers to the 3,000-square-kilometre Huwazeh marshland which separates parts of the southern Iraq from the Iranian mainland to the east.

The internationally-recognised Iraq-Iran border runs across the marshland which has been the target of two major Iranian offensives since February 1984.

Iraqi warplanes, the spokesman said, also carried out a successful raid against the battered Kharg Island oil terminal in the north-eastern sector of the Gulf waterway at 3:12 p.m.

Mr. Berri said: "There is no way or hope for a solution without shortening the president's term." Mr. Gemayel was elected for six years in September 1982.

Mr. Berri added that the militia pact remained the basis for any future negotiations.

Witnesses told Reuters pro-Syrian militiamen and Gemayel supporters traded artillery fire again on Saturday in hills around Bikfaya after salvos of 122-mm rockets slammed into the village on Friday.

But Prime Minister Karami, in an interview with the Al Shiraa magazine, said he doubted that Syria would send troops in to settle the crisis. "I do not think Syria will intervene militarily," he said. Beirut Radio said Mr. Karami, Mr. Hoss and Speaker Husseini talked with Syrian Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam in Damascus on Saturday. It gave no details.

Also expected in Damascus was former President Suleiman Franjeh, a Maronite Christian leader also backed by Damascus.

Mr. Junblatt and Mr. Berri returned home from talks in Damascus late Friday.

Radio stations said the Damascus talks involved means for "a possible retaliation for efforts to sabotage the peace accord."

Bikfaya, 16 kilometres northeast of Beirut, was shelled overnight by rockets and heavy artillery. But the firing subsided in the morning, an Associated Press reporter reported from the mountain resort.

There were no reports of casualties in the mountain resort, virtually deserted since an alliance of Syrian-backed militias launched an offensive on army positions just east of Bikfaya Wednesday, hours after Mr. Hobeika was defeated by Gemayel loyalists.

Police said at least 21 people were killed and 56 wounded Friday when tank-led army units and Gemayel supporters counter-attacked the Syrian-backed militias in the Metn mountain ridge.

A commander of Mr. Gemayel's Falange Party, who identified himself only as Youssef, said at his post in Bikfaya that his fighters and army units repulsed 20 attempts by the alliance of leftist militias to advance on the town on Friday.

By police count, at least 403 people have been killed and nearly 800 wounded since Monday. Most of the victims fell in Wednesday's fighting in the Christian heartland.

(Continued on page 3)

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In the draft's revised form, the council was asked to deplore strongly "the Israeli acts of violence as well as abusive practices and measures against the civilian population in southern Lebanon."

In a statement just before the council voted, Ms. Byrne contended that the resolution could not bring closer the restoration of peace in Lebanon or relief of the suffering of the Lebanese.

Termining it a partisan text, she charged that it ignored the "facts." "Negative, one-sided resolutions such as this one only serve those who wish to prevent progress toward peace in the region," the American delegate said.

It was the first council veto this year and the 44th time that the United States blocked the adoption of a resolution in the 15-nation body. The Soviet Union has exercised its veto power to kill 116 council resolutions.

Mr. Fakhoury said he hoped no U.N. member would one day find itself in a "deteriorating and painful situation" like that now faced by southern Lebanon and its people.

After two meetings last Monday, the council took up the matter again on Friday when Mr. Fakhoury dropped a call for condemnation of Israeli aggression.

He proposed instead that the 15-nation body should deplore the incidents, which were now termed acts of violence.

But the revisions failed to deflect the American veto. After the vote, Mr. Fakhoury said the text was balanced. "Deploping all acts of violence puts the aggressor on an equal footing with the national resistance movement," he said.

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UAE criticises Spain for opening ties with Israel

ABU DHABI (Agencies) — The United Arab Emirates on Saturday expressed its "regret and concern" over Spain's establishment of diplomatic relations with Israel as newspapers in the Gulf region laid the responsibility for Madrid's move at the doorstep of the Arabs.

Foreign Ministry Under-Secretary Sheikh Hamdan bin Zayed, in the first reaction by a Gulf official, told the official Emirates News Agency that his country regretted the timing of Spain's announcement "when Israel is persisting with its aggression on Arab and Palestinian people in the occupied territories, with its incessant transgressions in Jerusalem, and continued occupation of parts of Lebanon."

The UAE English-language newspaper Emirates News said that Israel's recognition may have been a condition for Spain's admission to the European Community, but "it underlines the fact that Israel can continue to make diplomatic gains regardless of its obduracy and its refusal to grant the Palestinians their rights."

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(Continued on page 3)



Tanks and militiamen in action in east Beirut

Masri returns from Afro-Arab meeting

AMMAN (J.T.) — Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri returned to Amman from Damascus on Saturday after taking part in a three-day meeting of the Permanent Commission for Afro-Arab Cooperation which concluded in Damascus on Friday.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the commission supported a proposal by Jordan for holding an international peace conference on the Middle East to be attended by all parties concerned, including the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council.

It also called for supporting the struggle of the Palestinian people to liberate their occupied land and establish their own state under PLO leadership.

Conference decisions

Foreign ministers from 24 Arab and African nations attended the meeting, which also reached an agreement to tighten political and economic boycotts against Israel and South Africa.

The general secretaries of the Arab League and Organisation of African Unity (OAU), Chadi Klibi and Ide Oumarou, speaking at a news conference after the meeting, also condemned Spain's decision to establish diplomatic relations with Israel and U.S. sanctions against Libya.

"We all face a common foe — the racist regime in South Africa and the Zionist regime in occupied Palestine — and will work together to topple them," Mr. Oumarou said.

Mr. Klibi said the boycott agreement and a pact on cooperation between the two groups, would "open a new epoch of wider cooperation in all fields between the peoples of Africa and the Arab Nation."

He gave no details of either agreement, but said economic cooperation would focus on joint enterprises to be financed by the Arab Bank for Development in Africa and the African Development Bank.

Mr. Oumarou said the foreign ministers, who constitute the Permanent Commission for Afro-Arab Cooperation, decided that officials should meet in Libya later this year to prepare for an Afro-Arab summit.

Both groups "should first resolve their internal problems to make the summit a success," he said without elaborating.

Mr. Klibi said the organisations deeply regretted Spain's decision to establish diplomatic relations with Israel, "at a time when many states in the world are tightening the blockade against Israel for disregarding United Nations resolutions and continuing aggression and terrorism against the Arabs."

The Spanish government, which finalised the move on Friday, had failed to take into account "good ties and strong links between the Spanish and Arab peoples," he added.

Israel bans Arabs from crossing to East Bank

By Salameh B. Ne'mati
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Israeli occupation authorities Saturday banned Arab citizens of occupied Jerusalem from travelling to Jordan for the third consecutive day, reports reaching here from the occupied West Bank said.

The reports said that the Israeli authorities have introduced new restrictions on Arabs travelling from other parts of the occupied territories to Jordan.

"These measures come within Israeli escalation of a terrorist course against Arab citizens," the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, said.

Contacted by the Jordan Times, Interior Minister Hassan Al Kayed said that he was not officially informed by border officials about the new Israeli measures.

It is believed that Israel has started implementing these arbitrary measures following recent developments including the shooting of an Israeli army officer in the city of Nablus last week. The measures also follow the recent violence which was instigated by Israeli parliamentarians trying to establish a prayer place for Jews at Haram Al Sharif in Jerusalem.

The attempt by Israeli Knesset members provoked clashes between Arab citizens of Jerusalem and Israeli police forces that drew condemnation of Israel from the Arab League, the Permanent Commission for Afro-Arab Cooperation and leaders from all over the world.

Reports from the occupied West Bank said on Saturday that the Israeli officer shot and wounded last week in Nablus held an important position in Israel's prison administration. The reports implied that he was singled out as

an officer who "practised the harshest methods of torture against Arab detainees."

A statement issued on Saturday by the United Democratic Alliance, a grouping of Jordanian political activists, voiced concern over the "new Zionist aggression" against religious sites in occupied Jerusalem which it described as "violation of international law and United Nations resolutions."

The statement, which was addressed to several political parties in Egypt, also lashed at the United States, "which proved day in and day out its total support for Israel and all what it does including aggression against the Palestinian people, their land and religious places."

The two-page statement called on Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak "to return to Egypt its former leading national role before it was diverted from it." The statement was referring to Egypt's 1979 Camp David treaty with Israel.

In reference to the Taba dispute between Egypt and Israel, the statement called on President Mubarak not to entangle the country with "side issues the Zionist enemy is trying to manipulate to blackmail the Egyptian leadership."

"Taba cannot be more important than the abducted Palestinian, Syrian and Lebanese lands," the statement said.

The statement was signed by Dr. Jamal Sha'er, Dr. Faisal Kan'an, Mr. Talal Omari, Dr. Mohammad Oran, Dr. Wajih Barakat, Mr. Anwar Hadid, Ms. Nayla Rashdan, Dr. Ghazi Qasem, Mr. Bassam Ma'aya'a, Mr. Wahib Sha'er, Dr. Carlos D'Amico, Dr. Adawiyah Alami, Mr. Ibrahim Atour, Dr. Abdul-Salam Qamhawi and Mr. Minwer Hadid.

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Top Soviet official warns U.S. against increasing naval presence in Gulf

KUWAIT (Agencies) — A top Soviet defence official warned the United States in an interview published here on Saturday against building up its naval presence in the Gulf region to protect merchant shipping.

Deputy Soviet Defence Minister Vladimir Govorov, who ended a six-day visit to Kuwait last Thursday, told the daily Al Watan: "We would not agree with any steps by the U.S. to send forces to the Gulf."

"It is not within its rights. It should acknowledge the present balance of forces in the area," he said.

The White House last week expressed deep concern after the Iranian navy stopped and searched the U.S.-owned cargo ship President Taylor in international waters.

Gulf-based diplomats said U.S. naval vessels had started escorting some American merchant vessels in Gulf sea lanes after the incident.

Mr. Govorov described the situation on the Iran-Iraq war front as stable, but said the conflict should be treated as a "barrel of gunpowder," adding that any foreign intervention would heighten tension.

Iran has said that it reserved the right to intercept any vessel in the Gulf that it suspects of carrying arms for Iraq. The Iranian navy has also been continuing boarding and searching of cargo vessels.

According to U.S. Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger, two American warships moved into the Gulf after the Iranian action over the President Taylor but

there had been no incidents of confrontation with the Iranians. However, the U.S. has not made it clear what action it would take against any future Iranian interception of American ships in the Gulf. The interceptors "could be a potentially dangerous game," said a U.S. spokesman last week.

Govorov: No new deals

In his interview with Al Watan, Mr. Govorov said his visit to Kuwait dealt with implementing previous arms accords with Kuwait, and no new agreements were discussed.

He said Kuwait had submitted requests related to arms, but his other remarks suggested these were linked to previous purchases. In the last publicised agreement, Kuwait in mid-1984 signed to buy missiles and other hardware, mainly to boost air defences, a deal reported by local media to be worth over \$325 million.

U.S. presence near Libya

Mr. Govorov told Al Watan that the United States had put on what he called a "show of military strength" in the Mediterranean after last month's Rome and Vienna airport attacks in which it has alleged Libyan links.

But he said, without elaborating, that it would be difficult for Washington to take military action for many reasons.

Hardline Palestinian leader Saeed Musa said in Tripoli, Libya, on Friday that the Soviet Union has warned the United States "it will not allow any American military strike against Libya."

Colonel Musa, also known by the code name Abu Musa, said Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi received formal assurances that the Soviets had delivered that message to U.S. President Ronald Reagan through the "direct secret communications channel" from Moscow to Washington.

He did not elaborate on what the Soviets might have meant in saying they would not tolerate U.S. military action against Col. Qadhafi, a staunch Soviet ally.

Abu Musa told reporters the Soviet warning was the main reason the danger of a U.S.-Libyan military confrontation had receded, but "the Americans also feared a hostile reaction throughout the Arab World and danger to American citizens living there."

In Washington, White House spokesman Edward Djerejian told reporters "I can categorically deny that we have received any warning as alleged... against military action against Libya from the Soviet Union."

Abu Musa, 57, is secretary-general of the Palestine National Salvation Front and a Libyan-backed rival of Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat.

Abu Musa: Qadhafi seeks Arafat's ouster

TRIPOLI (R) — Syrian-backed Palestinian rebel Abu Musa has said Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi had urged him to form a new group to oust Yasser Arafat and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

"Qadhafi thinks that we are already too late to get rid of Arafat and is trying to instigate all Palestinian groups to hasten his fall," Abu Musa told a group of reporters.

Damascus-based Abu Musa, who led a revolt within Mr. Arafat's mainstream Fatah faction in 1983 demanding reforms and urging armed struggle against Israel, met Col. Qadhafi earlier this week.

Col. Qadhafi has long been hostile to Mr. Arafat.

Mr. Arafat said last week he was willing to put aside his differences with Libya.

But Abu Musa said Col. Qadhafi was angry that Mr. Arafat had accused Libya of being behind guerrilla attacks at airports in Rome and Vienna on Dec. 27. Nineteen people died in the incidents.

The United States blamed the attacks on the radical Abu Nidal guerrilla group, accused Col. Qadhafi of harbouring it and imposed economic sanctions on Libya.

Col. Qadhafi has denied any Libyan involvement but just two days ago offered to train Arab soldiers "in terrorism and suicide missions."

Abu Musa, whose real name is Colonel Saeed Musa, said Col. Qadhafi urged unity among Palestinian groups opposed to Mr. Arafat.

He said Col. Qadhafi believed radical Palestinian groups existed as an opposition faction rather than a substitute Palestinian leadership, thereby giving Mr. Arafat room to manoeuvre.

Abu Musa said Syrian-based Palestinian groups were currently bickering talks to try to narrow their differences.

Two major Palestinian groups, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine and the Palestine Communist Party, have so far declined to join the Palestine National Salvation Front formed by Arafat opponents in Damascus last March.

"We are convinced that in the end Arafat will be completely rejected by the PLO," said Abu Musa. "When he gets out, the forces which will lead the new movement must be ready."

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Kidnapper demands freedom for two Lebanese in Spain

BEIRUT (R) — Three Spanish embassy officials were kidnapped by gunmen near Beirut airport on Friday and a man who said he was related to two Lebanese imprisoned in Spain claimed responsibility.

Security sources said the three men, a Spaniard and two Lebanese, were seized on their way from the airport to the embassy's offices in east Beirut.

A caller to an international news agency here said he was related to Muhammad Rahhal and Mustafa Khalil, Lebanese convicted in Spain of the attempted murder of a Libyan diplomat in 1984. They are serving 23-year jail sentences.

"I ask for their release and I hope that the Spanish ambassador will give me a positive answer within two days if he has an interest in the safety of his diplomats," the man said.

He named the three men as Pedro Sanchez, Eid Abdo and Assad Abdo, listed as an attaché at the Spanish embassy.

Spanish Ambassador Pedro Manuel Arístegui was abducted by members of the Rahhal family in October 1984 but was freed next day. He later visited the Lebanese prisoners in Madrid and last February had lunch with the family in a Beirut suburb.

Friday's kidnapping came hours after Spain established full diplomatic relations with Israel at a meeting in The Hague.

In Madrid, the foreign office said Mr. Sanchez was a member of a special anti-terrorist police unit sent to Lebanon in advance of the establishment of diplomatic relations.

Initially, five Spanish diplomats were kidnapped on Friday but four were quickly freed.

The gunmen swooped in the Cooqui quarter near Beirut airport, a notorious area for kidnappings, police officials reported.

The Spaniards, with their drivers, were stopped in two cars, police said.

Mehdi arrives in Libya in defiance of Reagan ban

TRIPOLI (R) — The president of the Arab-American Relations Committee, Mohammad Mehdi, arrived in Tripoli on Saturday in defiance of President Ronald Reagan's ban on U.S. citizens visiting Libya.

"I am delighted to be here to explain to President Reagan that his executive order is unconstitutional and a violation of our rights as American citizens to travel where we want to," the Iraqi-born lawyer told reporters.

Mr. Reagan has imposed a total trade and commercial ban on Libya and ordered all Americans there to leave by Feb. 1 or face prosecution when they return home.

Dr. Mehdi, a U.S. citizen since 1983, said Mr. Reagan's view that Libya constituted a threat to the United States made no sense.

"If the small Libya is an extraordinary threat to the gigantic USA, then the USA is based on a foundation of clay," he said.

He said he planned to stay in Tripoli, where his daughter, Janan, teaches at the American oil companies school, until Feb. 1 and then return home "and let the courts decide."

"I expect to meet brother Qadhafi and ask him not to supply the Palestinians with arms; just as we ask President Reagan not to give F-14 (aircraft) and tanks to Israel," he said.

The group also said it had "executed" two of the hostages, Haim Cohen Halal and Isaac Tarnik, who were found shot dead in west Beirut last month.

The "Organisation of the Oppressed in the World," said last November it was holding four Jews seized in March and threatened to kill them unless Israel freed scores of Lebanese imprisoned in the South Lebanese village of Khiam.

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Mohammad Mehdi

Dr. Mehdi, who has a doctorate from Berkeley, California, and specialises in U.S. constitutional law, said he hoped to meet Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi and tell him to stop supplying arms to Palestinians.

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New alert in The Hague on eve of Peres' visit

THE HAGUE (R) — The Dutch government has issued a fresh warning to police of possible guerrilla attacks, just over 36 hours before Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres is due to visit the country.

The alert, the third of its kind in a week, was sent out Friday night advising police forces that maximum security measures were still needed to protect possible Jewish, Israeli and U.S. targets, the Interior Ministry said.

Peres arrives on Sunday to seal his country's new diplomatic relations with Spain in a meeting with Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez and then have two days of talks with Dutch leaders.

The Dutch Foreign Ministry has said unprecedented measures would be taken to protect him, but police unions have warned the alert had already stretched the force to the limit.

Faced with protecting 600 U.S. businesses and thousands of U.S. citizens and servicemen, an Israeli embassy and travel office and their staff and possible targets among 30,000 Dutch Jews, they

have protested they are ill-equipped and undermanned.

The government insisted the police could handle the alert for weeks without any help.

The warning, attributed to Western intelligence services, indicated that a group supporting Palestinian hardliner Abu Nidal could be preparing a guerrilla attack in The Netherlands or Scandinavia.

Dutch efforts to step up security at airports and possible targets were mirrored in Norway, Sweden and Denmark. The Dutch police said a similar warning preceded last month's attacks at Rome and Vienna airports, which left 19 dead.

The threat comes at a sensitive moment for the Dutch, who have been among the most firm in the European Community (EC) in rejecting the U.S. call to join sanctions against Libya.

The Dutch have insisted no link has been established putting responsibility on Libya for the airport attacks, and argued that sanctions would serve only to rally Arab support for Libya.

Abu Nidal is based in Tehran, Jibril says

ROME (Agencies) — Radical Palestinian leader Abu Nidal, suspected of masterminding the recent attacks on Rome and Vienna airports, is based in Iran, not Libya, according to an interview reported in an Italian newspaper.

Ahmad Jibril, general secretary of the General Command of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, made the claim in an interview with the Milan-based daily Corriere Della Sera.

According to the newspaper, Mr. Jibril said the guerrilla's base "is not in either Libya or Syria. Abu Nidal spends most of his time in Tehran."

The United States has accused

Libya of providing sanctuary, training assistance and financial support to Abu Nidal's organisation.

Mr. Jibril denied previous press reports that Abu Nidal, one of the world's most wanted men, had undergone plastic surgery, but said the Palestinian leader had recently been operated on in Sweden and given a heart pacemaker.

Abu Nidal commands a radical faction opposed to the policies of Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat and is held responsible for organising the twin attacks at Rome and Vienna last Dec 27 during which 19 people died.

The U.S. administration said last week it was urging Syria to expel followers of Abu Nidal from Lebanon's Bekaa Valley and Syria itself. There was no official Syrian comment on the issue.

A spokesman claiming to speak for the Abu Nidal group denied last week that the radical leader had given any interviews to any Arab newspapers recently. The spokesman was referring to an interview published by the UAE newspaper Al Wahda in which Abu Nidal was quoted as admitting his group's involvement in the Dec 27 Rome and Vienna attacks.

The paper did not say where Abu Nidal was interviewed.

CAIRO (AP) — Admiral William Crowe, chairman of the U.S. joint chiefs of staff, arrived in Egypt on Saturday for a three-day visit and talks on U.S.-Egyptian military cooperation.

Adm. Crowe, who is on a Middle East tour that has taken him to Jordan and Israel, was met at Cairo airport by Gen. Omar Hamdan, commander of the Cairo military district.

Mr. Crowe told reporters after discussing Middle East problems with King Hussein last November: "These events also concern Turkey. Turkey should keep an eye on the region."

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Committee reviews bureau's report

AMMAN (Petra) — The Lower House of Parliament financial committee held its fifth meeting Saturday under the chairmanship of its chairman Musa Abu Al Ragheb during which it discussed a number of issues included in the Audit Bureau's annual report for 1984. The committee also discussed a number of topics related to the Ministries of Health and Communications in the presence of Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh and Communications Minister Muhieddin Al Hussein. The committee will hold a lengthy meeting Monday during which it will discuss subjects related to the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment, Amman Municipality and the Water Authority of Jordan.

Nasour leaves for IFAD session

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Planning Abdullah Al Nasour will leave for Rome today where he will participate in the 19th session of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) which opens in the Italian capital on Tuesday.

First term tawjihi exams underway

AMMAN (J.T.) — Nearly 49,912 male and female students of the third secondary class Saturday started the first term of their general secondary certificate (tawjihi) examinations. The Ministry of Education said the students are taking the exams in 654 halls around the country under the supervision of ministry investigators and directors of education in the governorates. Students of the scientific, literary, commercial, postal, hotel, agricultural and nursing streams will take the examinations for eight days before resuming their second school term in February.

American gift to the blind in Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Highness Prince Ra'd, president of the Friends of the Blind Society in Jordan, has been presented with a number of Braille men's and women's watches for distribution to the needy blind in Jordan. The presentation was made by U.S. Charge d'Affaires in Amman Edward Gnehm on behalf of the Zale Corporation in Irving, Texas which donated the watches. The corporation has been making this donation every year.

AAU institute to review Arab atlas

AMMAN (Petra) — Association of Arab Universities (AAU) Secretary General Muhammad Faraj Al Dughaim left for Baghdad Saturday to attend meetings of the board of directors of the Arab World Atlas institute which will open in the Iraqi capital on Monday. The meetings are expected to discuss financial and administrative issues related to this project.

Land near Ma'an to be reclaimed

MA'AN (Petra) — A total of 110,000 dunums around Ma'an have been assigned for reclamation and development for agricultural purposes in accordance with directives issued by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, during his latest visit to Ma'an Governorate. Ma'an Governor Eid Al Qataneh announced Saturday. He said the lands which are to be developed lie at Al Jafar, Wadi Al Bueiaja and Umeizeh. Mr. Qataneh was speaking during a tour of the three regions.

Finesse from 4 French females

AMMAN — Only a few days after the beautiful performance of British pianists Richard Markham and David Nettle at the Royal Cultural Centre, the French Cultural Centre (CCF) will present an exceptional string quartet on Monday Jan. 20 at 8 p.m.

The concert at the CCF theatre in Jabal Al Waddeh is to be given by the "Quatuor Margand", with Michele Margand and Brigitte Roth on violins, Claude Lassere on cello and Sylvie Vesterman on violin alto. One recalls that the last performance of the "Amman" by a "ladies-only" musical ensemble (The Guest Stars jazz band) was absolutely brilliant, though quite different in style. The fact is talented women musicians can play with a very distinguished style and unrivalled finesse.

The repertoire of the Quatuor Margand is impressive by the wide spectrum of covers since it includes more than sixty different composers. In addition to well-known musicians like Bach, Mozart, Debussy, the quartet has also played works by Wyschnegradsky, Carter, Bailey, Hasquenoph and other less known composers.

MUSIC PREVIEW

The first part of Monday's recital includes a quartet by Richard Strauss (not to be confused with Johann Strauss who was noted for his waltzes) and a quartet by Farid Alakwerdt. The second part is definitely French with a quartet by Maurice Ravel. One of the first composers to be considered as "modern classical", Ravel (1875-1937) introduced unusual harmonies and tone colouring to music.

The Margand quartet has won press acclaim from critics in every country they have visited including the U.S., Scotland, Turkey, Iraq, France, Italy, Kenya, Egypt and many others. Jordan should not be an exception.



Her Majesty Queen Noor Saturday attends Arbor Day celebrations in Zarqa (Petra photo)

Hamzeh opens seminar on health education

AMMAN (Petra) — Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh said Saturday that health care is an integral part of social and economic development in Jordan because fit, healthy people can contribute effectively towards development. He said that the Health Ministry is working in line with a strategy drawn up by the World Health Organisation (WHO) which aims at providing good health care for all by the year 2000.

Dr. Hamzeh was addressing the opening session of a three-day seminar on health education organised by the Ministry of Health's Primary Health Department.

The minister called for a reassessment of health education programmes with the purpose of ensuring that they serve the objective of primary health care. Preventive medicine and health control are among the essential elements of primary health care, Dr. Hamzeh continued. He went on to say that health care and health education programmes aim to spread public awareness on ways of preventing the spread of disease and this activity is a main responsibility for the Health Ministry.

Addressing the afternoon session of the seminar was Dr. Sulaiman Qubain, director of the Primary Health Care Department. He reviewed the basic elements of primary health care and ways to educate the public on the prevention of diseases. Taking good care of food, drinking water and the health of mothers and children, as well as inoculation programmes for children, are among the basic elements in this endeavour, Dr. Qubain explained.

Also speaking was Dr. Mohammad Bashir Shreim, from the Health Ministry, who spoke about the need for all members of the public to be aware of health needs and problems as a prerequisite for their acceptance of primary health education.

The three-day seminar, attended by directors of health departments in all regions of the country, will be oriented towards basic concepts of health education and the role of the information media in relaying this knowledge to the public.

PSD studies means to reduce road accidents

AMMAN (J.T.) — A meeting, chaired by Public Security Director (PSD) Lieutenant General Abdul Hadi Al Majali, Saturday reviewed a plan for reducing road accidents in Jordan. In a speech to the participants, Lt.-Gen. Majali stressed the need for preparing working papers on the issue and he discussed the role of the public officials and those in charge of traffic in reducing the number of road accidents.

The meeting, attended by directors of departments affiliated to the Public Security Department and concerned with safety on roads, was a preliminary discussion to prepare for a national conference on road accidents.

According to Public Security Department figures, some 4,830 members of the public were killed and 68,440 others were injured in road accidents which occurred in Jordan over the past 13 years, registering an increase by 404 per cent over casualty figures available up to 1970.

In 1984 alone, the department said that a total of 9,438 people, half of whom were pedestrians, were either killed or injured in road accidents with more than 66 per cent of the total casualties under 15 years of age.

JEA to light parts of Sweileh-Salt highway

AMMAN (Petra) — As part of the Greater Amman road lighting project, it has been decided to light parts of the Sweileh-Salt highway, an official spokesman for the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) said Saturday.

The official told the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, that the authority is currently working on the execution of this project in cooperation with a local firm which won the tender.

The local firm, whose name was not disclosed, also won earlier tenders to light the Queen Alia International Airport Road from the Seventh Circle to the airport roundabout and the Zarqa-Amman highway from the Sports City intersection to the outskirts of Zarqa. The local company also won another tender to light the University of Jordan road from the Sports City intersection to the Sweileh intersection and from the same intersection to the Eighth Circle.

The estimated total length of these roads is 78 kilometres. The source also said that a team comprising officials from the JEA and the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources as well as international experts, has forwarded a study on designs for road lighting in order to unify electrical specifications, to minimise cost of road lighting projects, and to rationalise in energy consumption.

Alia offers more summer flights to United States

AMMAN (J.T.) — Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline, will be flying to Chicago-Los Angeles three times a week as of June 10, 1986, according to a statement issued by the national carrier's Public Relations Department.

The announcement comes in line with an earlier declaration made by Alia Chairman of the Board of Directors Ali Ghandour who said that the airline intends to increase its number of North Atlantic, European and Arab flights.

"Long destination routes balance out the losses which occur from short routes," Mr. Ghandour told a press conference.

The two-year old Chicago-Los Angeles route was launched with two weekly flights and the statement said that a "Alia Tri-Star L1011 aircraft will continue to be used and operated via Vienna."

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Queen Noor patronises Arbor Day celebration

Queen inaugurates art exhibition, garden in Zarqa

ZARQA (Petra) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Saturday patronised a celebration marking Arbor Day in Jordan and took part in tree planting activities along with local officials and members of the public. The celebration included the inauguration of the Prince Hamzeh Garden in Zarqa, established on an area of 20 dunums.

At the outset of the celebration Acting Governor of Zarqa Mohammad Al Daba'i made a speech voicing appreciation to Queen Noor for patronising the celebration.

Later, the Queen opened an art exhibition at the Prince Hamzeh Ibn Al Hussein boys' school. The display was organised by the Department of Education in Zarqa. On show are paintings and photographs as well as historical documents featuring Jordan's history

and development and the country's achievements accomplished under His Majesty King Hussein. There are also several photographs of members of the Royal family.

Queen Noor, accompanied by Minister of Agriculture Ahmad Dakbjan and other officials, opened the Queen Noor Garden at Al Zawahreh district of Zarqa which was established by the Zarqa Development Corporation

(ZDC) in cooperation with Zarqa Municipality and local sports clubs. The garden was set up on a 10-dunum plot of land and includes a children's playground and public utilities. The Queen unveiled a commemorative plaque in the garden and joined members of the public in planting trees in the new garden.

At the celebration Dr. Tayseer Ammari, ZDC chairman of the board of directors, made a speech outlining his corporation's role in local development.

Among those attending the celebrations in Zarqa were the undersecretaries of the Ministries of Agriculture and Education, heads of local municipal and village councils, presidents of local trade unions and representatives of companies and factories.

Algeria to join CAEU

AMMAN (Petra) — Algeria will join the Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) and is studying the prospect of applying the Arab Common Market regulations, CAEU Secretary General Mahdi Al Obaidi announced Saturday.

Mr. Obaidi was speaking upon his return to Amman from Algiers where he discussed the matter with Algerian officials. He said inter-Arab economic action will be bolstered as more and more Arab countries join the CAEU.

Mr. Obaidi also said that he attended the 15th meeting of the Arab Organisation for Agricultural Development (AOAD) which was held in Algiers and which took a number of resolutions designed to bolster inter-Arab cooperation in agricultural affairs. Mr. Obaidi said he agreed with the AOAD director general to hold a seminar which would prepare the groundwork for inter-Arab agricultural integration.

The meeting in which the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development will participate, is to be held in the coming months, Mr. Obaidi said.

In his meetings with Algerian officials, Mr. Obaidi said he reviewed Arab economic action and CAEU programmes for enhancing economic cooperation among Arab states.

Mr. Obaidi urged all Arab states to implement the provisions of agreements signed by them to promote economic cooperation among Arab states.

At present, he said, the CAEU secretariat is preparing for a general meeting of all land transport companies in the Arab World to look into the prospect of establishing an Arab-international land transport company to be charged with transporting goods between Arab countries.

Haj Hassan highlights women in development

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Labour and Social Development Khaled Al Haj Hassan Saturday described the role of women in social and economic development as "basic and essential in the fight against backwardness."

Opening a seminar on introducing amendments to the bylaws and statutes of the General Federation of Jordanian Women (GFJW), Mr. Haj Hassan said that women in Jordan form one half of the society and play a leading role in production, in raising the social standard of society and improving the condition of rural communities through the GFJW.

He said the seminar was a good opportunity for reviewing women's roles and introducing amendments to the GFJW's bylaws which could in turn offer further opportunities regarding the employment of women and promoting their role in national development. He wished the participants success in their endeavours.

GFJW President Haifa Al Bashir made a speech reviewing the activities of women in Jordan and the development of the GFJW. She also outlined the federation's programmes to raise the standard of women in the Kingdom, especially women in rural areas. Mrs. Bashir said that the proposed amendments to the bylaws are designed to gain more benefits for women and to utilise women's skills and efforts to the maximum.

The one-day seminar, organised in cooperation with the Ministry of Labour and Social Development, was attended by specialists in social development, GFJW members from various governorates in Jordan and lawyers.

A number of recommendations and proposals were put forth and approved by the participants. These suggestions will have to be ratified by the GFJW executive board.

mentally retarded and the hearing impaired or the blind, according to a spokesman for the Ministry of Labour and Social Development.

The ministry's under secretary Mohammad Ali Wardam, who opened the training course, urged the participants to benefit from Swedish expertise and so help to alleviate the sufferings of handicapped children.

One of the Swedish specialists involved in the project made a speech outlining the importance of such courses which he said were designed to orient the participants on modern methods and techniques in handling handicapped children.

The training course is being held at Nazek Al Hariri Centre for Special Education which was established by the wife of Saudi Arabian national Mr. Rafiq Al Hariri.

The participants will hear lectures and will tour a number of rehabilitation centres to be oriented on ways of educating severely handicapped children, the

Party relations with allied foreign parties and movements, issued the call for ending violence at a meeting with South Yemen Premier Abu Baker Al Attas and Foreign Minister Abdul Aziz Abdo Al Dali.

"Serious concern has been expressed over the situation that formed in Democratic Yemen and the conviction that, no matter what the reasons for the inter-ethnic clashes, they must be immediately ended," TASS said.

"The participants in the meeting are united in the view that the problems which arose should be solved through political means in the framework of party and state institutions of Democratic Yemen," TASS said.

"It is only the enemies of the South Yemen revolution, the forces of imperialism and reaction that would profit from the continuation of the bloodshed."

"The Soviet and South Yemeni representatives declared that any attempts at interference in the internal affairs of (South Yemen) from outside are impermissible."

TASS said both sides emphasised "the need of an early normalisation" of the situation in South Yemen.

There was no word on the whereabouts of a third South Yemeni official, Trade Minister Ahmad Udayd Al Fadil, who arrived in Moscow with the two other officials in Moscow Thursday from New Delhi.

Djibouti-based journalists allowed aboard the Soviet vessels, reaching Djibouti on Saturday said evacuees had reported fighting all over Aden Friday night, and that embassies, hotels and hospitals had been hit. There were no electricity or water supplies.

The evacuees said the Soviet embassy in Aden coordinated the rescue mission, with women and children given priority. The evacuees had been ferried to the Soviet ships in small boats Friday night, they said.

The first rescue ship to arrive here after the seven-hour, 210-kilometre crossing from Aden, was the container ship Vinnitsa with 253 evacuees, mostly Soviet women and children.

A second, the Pavel Antokolsky, carried 480 mostly Soviet evacuees and the body of a Soviet citizen killed in the fighting, while another 360 came on the Yakov Bondarenko.

Diplomats and representatives of humanitarian organisations at the port to assist the evacuees said they included at least 36 Palestinians, 25 Libyans and Syrians, Lebanese, Filipinos, Somalis and Cubans.

Soviet officials said a fourth Soviet vessel, the Banak with 191 passengers, was expected in Djibouti later on Saturday.

British Honorary Consul Christopher Reddington said Britannia was expected with over 300 foreign evacuees, mostly Westerners, plucked from beaches around Aden during lulls in the fighting.

Mr. Reddington said the British destroyer Newcastle, the frigate Jupiter and the support ship Brambleleaf were also in the area to assist in the evacuation.

Fresh battles halt airlift from Aden

(Continued from page 1)

Mohammed are continuing their offensive on rebel strongholds in the provinces.

Reports from Sana'a indicated that army units were fighting on both sides.

The Kuwait News Agency said Soviet-sponsored talks on Thursday between representatives of both sides failed because the president insisted that all coup leaders be exiled.

British officials said on Saturday foreign nationals were still waiting on the beach at Aden but the fighting was too fierce for them to be rescued.

They said the Britannia was expected to arrive at Djibouti later Saturday.

The Soviet Union has called for an immediate end to the fighting in South Yemen and the restoration of unity in the ruling Yemeni Socialist Party.

Moscow Television said top Kremlin official Yegor Ligachev and two visiting Yemeni leaders agreed at a meeting that the conflict must be resolved at once by political means.

The Soviet news agency TASS said Mr. Ligachev and alternate politburo member Boris N. Ponomarev, who oversees Communist

Party relations with allied foreign parties and movements, issued the call for ending violence at a meeting with South Yemen Premier Abu Baker Al Attas and Foreign Minister Abdul Aziz Abdo Al Dali.

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Khammash shows expressive simplicity of rural houses to U.S. audiences

WASHINGTON (USIS) — "We're heading for a brighter future in Jordan," says architectural student Amar Khammash, "but we need to remember the past. Not in a romantic way, but to use it in building our future."

Khammash is currently studying in the United States at the University of Southwestern Louisiana. On Jan. 15, he visited Washington at the invitation of the students and faculty of Georgetown University's Centre for Contemporary Arab Studies to present a slide show he called "Traditional Village Architecture of Jordan." He included photographs taken from January to August of last year when he visited granite and limestone structures dating back to the beginning of the century.

The young architect student told his Georgetown audience that village architecture is an underdocumented subject both in Jordan and the United States. "Most Westerners focus their attention on Petra and other large monuments when they visit Jordan," he said. "They feel the local architecture is unexciting. Early Twentieth Century village houses in Jordan do not have the appeal of the brighter, more lively structures in Yemen and Cyprus, for example."

Khammash points out that most Jordanians are unaware of their own village culture although the Queen Noor Al Hussein Foundation is developing plans which might lead to village preservation projects.

"But no architects are showing interest in this sort of project," he said. "They forget about the old houses while planning new and impressive concrete structures."

He explained that it is not always necessary to build something new and impressive when older structures can be renovated. Although, he added, "I'd choose first to restore an old house, if it is cheaper; I would build a new model if that is the most economical way."

His own extended field study ranged from the mountains in the East Jordan Valley to the Syrian border and the area near Petra. He emphasised to the American members of the audience that, despite what many of them might think, Bedouins make up only a small part of the village population. "They sometimes settle for free or a nominal rent in abandoned houses," he continued.

"The majority of dwellers in the old villages are elderly," he said. "The younger people, who are building newer, concrete houses are mainly in government service or the army." Khammash said that some mansions are going up. These are largely being constructed by wealthy merchants," he added.

"But it's the Bedouin who get most of the attention from American visitors. In a way that's good. It protects the villagers," he said. Khammash presented slide after slide of basalt and limestone village structures as he traced his trip through the semi-arid south. He pointed out a Christian village

whose inhabitants originated in Egypt. On the stones, various types of plants and religious symbols were carved to bless the harvest. In the village church, he photographed electric lamps which had been hanging there as thanksgiving offerings since electricity came to the villages in the 1970's.

In all the village interior scenes, seedbed bins for storing wheat and other grains were featured with bedding stored on top. Some houses sported British-style wardrobes made of wood. Mud furniture, clay pipes, small amulets, kitchenware, burners, storage jars and a television set were also photographed.

Born in Amman, the son of parents who immigrated from the West Bank, Khammash became interested in village architecture, especially that of the northern villages, at an early age. He started drawing at age 10 and painting at 14. He has held several one-man exhibits and his work has been shown internationally in Germany, India, Jordan and Switzerland. He is currently preparing a major multimedia exhibition on the village architecture of Jordan.

Besides photographs, the travelling exhibit will include architectural drawings, watercolours, maps, text panels, and a video tape presentation. It will travel to several American sites yet to be chosen before going on to Amsterdam, West Germany and possibly other European and Middle Eastern countries.

Mr. Gemayel rejected the Damascus accord, contending it made too many concessions to Muslims to end Christians' domination of government, parliament, the army and judiciary.

Mr. Gemayel supported the security aspects of the plan and called for their implementation.

But he demanded modifications in the political reforms designed to distribute power evenly between Lebanon's Christians and Muslims.

Mr. Berri and Junblatt have insisted that security and political aspects should be implemented at the same time, refusing any changes in the 23-page peace document.

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Syria has made clear

Sunday's Economic Pulse

By Dr. Fahed Fanek

Why blame world market prices?

OUR EXPORT sector is becoming increasingly important. Commodity exports in 1985 are estimated to have ranged between JD 300 and 350 million, over one fifth of the gross domestic product. In other words we export more than the United States of America, relative to the size of our national economy.

All exporting units, especially of large scale projects such as cement, phosphate, fertilizers and potash, complain that the prices in the world market are too low — a fact that is being blamed for the

operational losses in all these enterprises, except for the Phosphate Mines Company.

The notion that world prices are low, creates a logical problem. There is no price that can be described as absolutely low or high. There must be a reference to measure from how low or high a price is. In this respect, the world price is the reference, and accordingly could not in itself be low or high. It is a reference for producers to determine whether their local prices or cost of production are being low or high. Based on this understanding,

the so called "low international price" is not more than a high cost of production, which makes the world price look unreasonably low, because it does not allow for covering our cost, let alone the profit.

World market for commodities is too huge to be controlled by any country or corporation. It is the net outcome of the interaction between supply and demand in an open market. There is no way in which we can influence the world price to suit our circumstances or to accommodate our cost of production.

It is more meaningful and productive to discuss our high costs, rather than concentrate on the low prices in world markets. The only possible solution is to reduce our costs to an economical level, that would allow some profit in the world market, or allow us at least to cover production costs.

There is a full awareness of the fact that we have an "economic problem". The problem is characterised by the fact that some of our big corporations, such as potash, fertilizers, cement, glass, tumber, TV production, and others, are suffering losses. However, there is no awareness of the factors causing the problem.

Management blames world prices, but it should realise that production cost is too high, due to several reasons: Inefficiency, high initial cost of equipment, outdated technology, and unrealistic rate of exchange.

The problem could not be solved simply by making more public funds available to a failure management. Such management will only spend these funds and ask for more.

The real solutions are: lower cost, management accountability, and the withdrawal of the "sacred cow" status enjoyed by certain corporations and a class of bad managers, being immune from criticism or scrutiny.

Immunity against criticism is a sure prescription to protect mismanagement and corruption. Sun shine is hated only by nighty bats.

One should also notice that the exchange rate of our currency is structured in a way amounting to an implicit subsidy to imports and burden on exports.

The long view

WHAT ARE we to make of United States Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy's trip to the Middle East this week? We hear that Mr. Murphy now aims for an "international context" for Arab-Israeli peace negotiations. To which one responds: Better late than never. For it has taken the United States several years to make the change — from viewing an international conference as something of a Communist plot, to accepting the idea that Middle East peace-making should have an appropriate international "context." At this rate, however, the Arabs and Israelis may hope to live in peace sometime during the early decades of the third millennium. For we Semites around here, both Arabs and Israelis, that is perhaps inevitable, for the long view of history is something deeply engrained in our national psyches. If peace and justice take time, then so be it.

What does this mean for Mr. Murphy's latest trip? It means that if he hopes to spend months and years attempting to devise convoluted diplomatic language that means all things to all Semites, in the hope of nudging the parties into some sort of international context on the basis of imprecise principles, but without a significant change in the American and Israeli positions vis-a-vis Palestinian and Arab national rights, then he is unlikely to succeed.

Nevertheless, we wish he would succeed. We are very keen on an international conference, and a negotiated peace among Arabs and Israelis. If the United States, for once, is talking about a balanced package of equal national rights for Israelis and Palestinians, Mr. Murphy's chances of success are high. If not, well, the decade is long, and the century longer, and the millennium longer yet.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Spanish blunder

IN his first comment on the establishment of diplomatic relations between Israel and Spain, Israeli foreign minister Yitzhak Shamir said that Tel Aviv will try to benefit from the new relation to pave the way for holding contacts with Arab states that maintain strong ties with Madrid. He also said that the new relation with the European state would encourage African nations to restore their relations with Israel. This statement reflects the intention of the Israeli leaders to make the new diplomatic ties with Madrid as a "Horse of Troy" with the hope of penetrating other realms for spreading Zionist influence. It should be emphasised, however, that Spain does not possess the power to make the Arab countries agreeable to accepting Israel's conditions for peace. It must also be pointed out that Spain's unique ties with the Arabs have now been affected because of Madrid's decision to establish ties with Tel Aviv. The message sent by the Spanish prime minister to the Arab countries was meant as an appeasement and can in no way remove the harm done to Arab-Spanish relations. The Arab people who used to vacation in Spain are expected now to turn away from that country as Spain today is different from what it used to be. Therefore, Shamir should not rejoice too much over the idea of installing a "Horse of Troy," because that horse would have to be withdrawn once the Spanish government realised that it had committed a grave blunder.

Al Dustour: 'Blame thy self'

NOW that Spain has taken a regrettable step and established diplomatic ties with Israel we can only say that such step is a hostile action towards the Arab countries in general and its Arab friends in particular. We are pained to see Spain which has long maintained excellent relations with the Arabs turning away from them and strengthening ties with those who continue to occupy Arab lands by force and refuse all bids to achieve a just and durable peace. The Israeli government may now interpret Madrid's action as a show of support for Israeli aggressive policies and a reward for its continued occupation of Arab territories. Despite the fact that Spain has reiterated its position vis-a-vis the Palestine problem yet this does not change anything and can not justify its hostile step towards the Arab countries. Though we are not happy at this action on the part of a European country bound through many interests with the Arab World, yet we have ourselves to blame for the negative attitude towards our nation on the part of European, African and other nations of the world. Had the Arabs been united in one force and had their leaders agreed on concerted policies towards dealing with Israel and the rest of the world, such Spanish action would not have materialised.

Sawt Al Shuah: Afro-Arab relations

THE Arab-European dialogue, the Arab-American dialogue and the Afro-Arab dialogue have all been planned as a forum for airing Arab causes and trying to win support and sympathy from other nations. These dialogues have been intended also as a means for preventing our Israeli enemy from pursuing aggressive policies against us and harming our culture, history and religion. The latest of such dialogues has been held in Damascus where the participants issued recommendations and resolutions that cannot be taken very seriously, but should not be belittled either. What the Arabs need now is practical steps towards bolstering their relations with the African nations through further investments there and by way of opening the way for greater economic and trade cooperation. One must not forget the fact that African nations are mostly hungry and backward and require immediate assistance which in some way can prevent Zionist invasion of the African continent. What they need also is a serious effort towards strengthening ties with the Organisation of African Unity with the hope of bolstering political, economic and cultural ties with African people.

Middle East peace process: Where to go from here?

By Lamis K. Andoni
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — There are two major political debates that are taking place among scholars, politicians and former Arab and non-Arab government officials concerning the situation in the Middle East. The first debate is on how to revitalise the stalemated "peace process" in the area. The second debate, however, takes a totally opposite direction and focusses on finding a long term strategy to change the overall balance of power between the Arabs and Israel, including that inside the United States.

The first group believes that the given situation in the region at this stage provides a golden chance for achieving peace in the Middle East. The main factors cited by this group as "good ground" for proceeding in peace efforts are the Feb. 11 agreement between Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), the presence of Labour Party leader Shimon Peres on the head of the Israeli coalition government and the United States readiness to support any move initiated by the parties concerned.

These encouraging factors would be undermined, this group argues, if no further steps are taken by the parties concerned to revitalise the peace process and lift it off the ground.

The second argument is based on the premises that the existing balance of power is in favour of Israel and that the Arabs are too weak and divided to influence the American administration, which so far has been very supportive of the Israeli position. This second group believes that there could be no just peaceful settlement under the existing conditions and that the Arabs should seek a clear strategy which could change the American position.

Former U.S. Senator James Abourezk belongs to the second group. "There is no peace process," Mr. Abourezk told the Jordan Times in an interview last week. "The U.S. is simply not interested in the Middle East," he added.

In Mr. Abourezk's view nothing has happened so far that could influence or change the American position. According to the first group's argument however, a PLO's acceptance of United Nations Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 would help break the deadlock and encourage the American administration to push the peace process forward.

But Mr. Abourezk strongly disagrees. He says that such a step would not help. "To ask the PLO to accept the two resolutions on their own is like asking it to surrender," he said. Such a step, he argued, will not change the pro-

Israeli American stand and will only hurt the PLO.

The alternative, according to Mr. Abourezk, is to rally efforts to create a strong pro-Arab lobby which could confront the Zionist lobby and influence the American decision-makers.

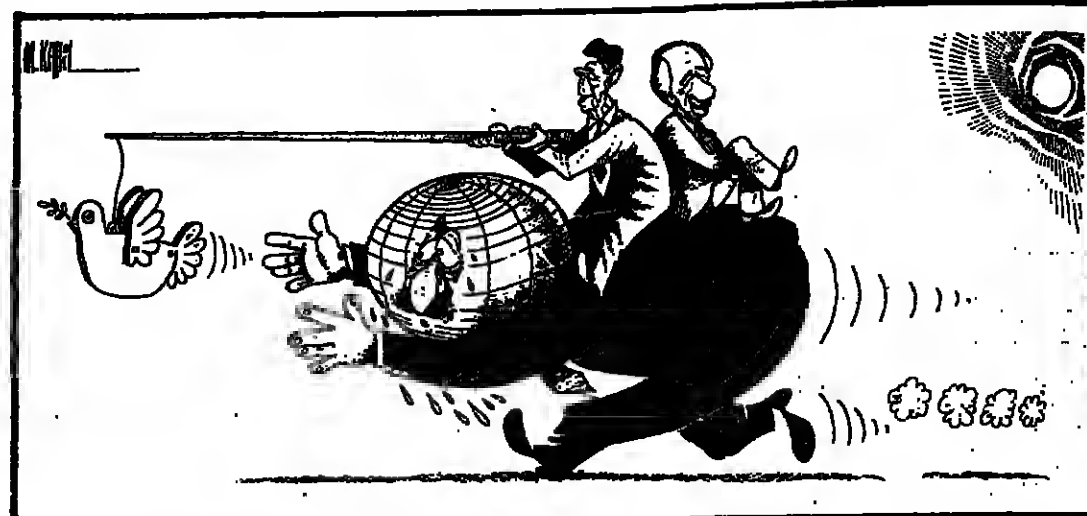
"The Arabs should work to change the political map of America," he said. The strong pro-Israeli lobby has succeeded in influencing the American Congress "through the power of money" and thus misled the American public opinion, he said.

In a speech he gave last Thursday at a dinner hosted by the president of the Yarmouk University, Dr. Adnan Badran, Mr. Abourezk said that in 1984 the pro-Israeli lobby had given \$4 million to congressional candidates to win their support for Israeli policies.

To counter the power of the Zionist lobby, Arabs should render support to Arab-Americans to organise and form a strong pressure group that will promote the Palestinian cause, he said.

Mr. Abourezk, who is from a Lebanese origin, said that, although Arab-Americans had founded many organisations, their lack of political experience and divisions had backfired against their aspired goals of constituting an effective pressure force in the United States.

One of the most effective



Arab-American organisations is the Arab-American Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC), formed by Mr. Abourezk five years ago as "a service organisation for people of Arab descent."

The ADC's main goals are to fight stereotyping of Arabs, discrimination against Americans of Arab origin and the American bias in favour of Israel in issues pertaining to the Middle East conflict.

The ADC has chapters in most major American cities and according to Mr. Abourezk it has proven to be the most successful and the only grass root Arab-

American organisation in the U.S.

In recent years the ADC has been under attack by the American press and last year an unidentified group carried three sabotage attacks against its offices in Boston, Orange County, and Washington, D.C., killing the ADC West Coast coordinator Alex Odeh.

In Mr. Abourezk's view the attacks were a result of the organisation's success in countering the Zionist lobby but he declined to accuse any party of the attacks. He said that the ADC has proved its efficiency but that more is needed to change the American position on the Middle East. "This requires a clear strategy that focus its attention at the American area," he said.

But such a strategy would have to be a long term strategy which contradict the prevailing argument that time is running out and that dramatic steps are needed to help achieve peace in the Middle East before it is too late, the first group argues.

But Mr. Abourezk disagrees. "They have been telling us that time is running out for the last ten years and nothing happened," he said. "We better start," he concluded.

Spain pays for joining EC, recognises Israel

By François Raitberger
Reuter

MADRID — Spain's establishment of full diplomatic relations with Israel, despite Arab pressure, ended a legacy of Francisco Franco and brought Madrid into line with European Community foreign policy.

Spanish officials played down reports of possible retaliation by Arab countries and Palestinian groups, but security was stepped up at the country's missions and offices abroad.

Politicians and newspapers called the long-delayed move the end of an anachronism and a historical step towards redeeming a mass expulsion of Jews from Spain in 1492.

Disappointed Arab diplomats said they would not discuss an internal decision by a sovereign country but warned the move would

cost Madrid its privileged links with the Arab World.

Spain, where Muslim and Jewish culture flourished in the Middle Ages, was the only West European country without direct links with Israel.

Franco, who believed his worst enemies were Jews, Freemasons and Communists, did not recognise Israel when it was founded in 1948. Israel, branding Franco a collaborator of Nazi Germany, voted against Spain's admission to the United Nations.

The two nations edged closer after Franco's death in 1975, handling relations through a consulate in Jerusalem and a Madrid tourism mission whose head, Samuel Hadas, becomes Israel's first ambassador to Spain.

But successive Spanish governments, fearing an Arab oil embargo, said they would establish full diplomatic relations only if there were some movement

towards recognition of Palestinian rights or Israeli withdrawal from occupied territories.

Spanish Socialists, who had asked Israel not to establish relations with Franco's government, came to power in 1982 with a pledge to pay that debt by recognising the Jewish state.

They also came under strong pressure in European Community entry talks to avoid being the only member country without ties with Israel, an associate EC state.

Officials said they did not believe Middle East countries, which provide more than half of Spain's oil supplies, would retaliate.

Arab diplomatic sources, while discounting any spectacular reaction, said that Spanish companies had been treated favourably when negotiating contracts and would lose their privileges.

Fearing a wave of attacks from Palestinian groups, Spain has sent crack police squads to protect its

embassies and commercial offices in the Middle East. The Spanish embassy in Beirut was transferred from the Muslim to the Christian sector, and Spanish journalists there have been advised to leave the city for a while.

Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez Ordóñez said Madrid had told Arab countries its support for the Arab cause would not be affected. "I hope Arab countries will understand Spain's motives with intelligence," he told reporters.

The city of Toledo, where Christians, Muslims and Jews lived together in peace during the Arab rule, was once called the Jerusalem of the west for its mosques, churches and synagogues.

It all ended in 1492 when the kings of Spain, who to this day include in their titles that of King of Jerusalem, drove the last Arabs out and ordered Jews to convert to Christianity or leave.

Experts doubt U.S. ability to retaliate in atomic war

By Christopher Hanson
Reuter

WASHINGTON — Experts in atomic war are questioning U.S. ability to strike back in the event of a Soviet attack, casting doubt on the balance-of-terror concept that has helped prevent a nuclear war for 40 years.

"If the president wishes to push the nuclear button, it may not work," analyst Daniel Ford writes in "The Button," a recent book on the nuclear early-warning system.

Ford's concern is shared by congressional investigators, private defence analysts and a former U.S. Defence Department official, who say America's nuclear command, control and communications (C3) system could be disrupted easily in the early stages of a Soviet attack, short-circuiting retaliation.

These critics say the vulnerability of C3, a network of surveillance satellites linked by ground relay stations to underground and airborne command posts, makes the nuclear balance of terror much less stable than commonly believed.

The Pentagon insists the system does work, weak points are being fixed and America could retaliate if attacked. It says it is spending \$15 billion to correct weaknesses.

A commonly accepted scenario of war has the U.S. command system working as follows if Moscow were to launch an attack: Surveillance satellites detect missiles blasting off and flash warnings which the North American Aerospace Defence Command (NORAD) in Colorado verifies

and relays to Washington. President Reagan is rushed by helicopter to "the doomsday plane," his flying nuclear command post.

Reagan confers with military commanders in similar planes and determines which attack plan to use. Before long, the U.S. missiles begin to fly.

Pentagon planners see a possibility of protracted nuclear war lasting months, with successive strikes and counterstrikes.

On paper, that is how things would work. In reality, there is doubt whether any U.S. retaliation could be carried out, according to nuclear command specialist Bruce Blair, who left the Pentagon last July, and to the General Accounting Office, Congress' investigative arm.

A key problem, they say, is that satellite attack warning messages could easily be obliterated before reaching Reagan.

The satellite messages go through a series of vulnerable ground relay stations — first to Australia, then to a western Pacific station, then to Hawaii, then to Sunnyvale, California, and finally to NORAD.

"All of the intermediate ground stations that relay the warning data are vulnerable to nuclear and non-nuclear attack," Ford says.

The one in Sunnyvale, for instance, sits at a freeway interchange, wide open to command attack, the critics say. Backup systems exist but are also highly vulnerable, and most of the network would not survive beyond the first 10 minutes of a

nuclear attack, according to Blair.

Disputing these criticisms, air force General Robert Heres recently told Congress that the communications system and its backups were secure and "100 per cent reliable."

Further criticisms levelled by various critics are that: — Pentagon command jets rely on vulnerable ground stations for relay of satellite data, and also trail off antennas that tend to drop off. They could quickly be flying blind.

They also might suffer radio failure from electromagnetic pulse (EMP) emitted by nuclear blasts. Some command jets are not adequately "hardened" against the effects of EMP.

— Equipment throughout the network is very old, some dating from the 1960s. The Pentagon is striving to upgrade it.

"The system has suffered from a history of chronic neglect and disrepair," representative Jack Brooks, chairman of the House Government Operations Committee, said recently.

When Ford toured NORAD in 1983, he discovered that the ground-based early warning radar at Fylingdales, England, was out of operation, as were three of the four key warning radar stations for North America. All were down for maintenance.

A Pentagon nightmare has Soviet submarines creeping close to U.S. coasts and unleashing nuclear missiles. This would cut warning time to a few minutes and could result in destruction of key communications centres, doomsday

jets on the ground, the president himself and other leaders.

Air Force General Bruce Holloway, former head of the Strategic Air Command, was quoted in Ford's book as saying: "If the enemy struck first, bargained Washington, etc., we'd never recover, never recover control, never recover anything."

Some fear Moscow might try to exploit U.S. vulnerability in a crisis with "a cheap shot that broke the Pentagon's glass jaw before the U.S. could take a swing at them," Ford writes.

He contends the Pentagon is so worried about such a prospect that it has created an option in its war plan to strike first with nuclear weapons, pre-empting a Soviet attack.

Ex-Pentagon analyst Blair rates a first strike unlikely but says command system vulnerability has forced Washington to rely heavily on a hair-trigger nuclear option called "Launch on Warning," under which America would fire its missiles as soon as satellites reported a Soviet attack.

That option carries dangers of war started by false alarm.

But Blair doubts the nuclear warning system could survive long enough even for a launch-on-warning response.

The Pentagon acknowledges vulnerabilities in the system but says billions of dollars are being spent to correct them, modernise equipment and bolster security.

New Guatemalan president faces tough tasks

By Chris Angelo
The Associated Press

GUATEMALA CITY — Amid hopes he can rescue a shattered economy and avoid social unrest, Vinicio Cerezo on Dec. 14 became Guatemala's first civilian president in 16 years, replacing a military regime blamed for much of the nation's ills.

His Christian Democratic government will follow one blamed for corruption, allowing the economy, once Central America's strongest, to fall into ruin, and for human rights abuses that cost the country its U.S. aid.

Cerezo comes to office with the strength of a landslide victory in a Dec. 8 runoff election. His party holds 51 of the 100 seats in congress.

His challenges are clear cut and may require a balancing act among the people anxious for wage increases, the strong, staunchly conservative sectors of businessmen and landholders, the military and a more than 20-year-old smoldering leftist insurgency.

The Guatemala Chamber of Commerce and other business groups published newspapers ads the past week protesting new import taxes, decreed by outgoing military head of state Gen. Oscar Humberto Mejia Victores, apparently with Cerezo's nod.

The new taxes raised the overhead of businesses importing goods for the manufacture of their products. The chamber says the taxes will reduce buying power because of increased retail prices.

Protests from business and agriculture forced Mejia Victores to roll back other tax increases last April and he canceled a Guatemala City bus fare increase after it sparked several days of rioting in early September.

Cerezo will be forced to take unpopular economic steps the military postponed in the face of payments on the 2.4-billion-dollar foreign debt that is taking half of the nation's export earnings, and an industrial sector operating at 30 per cent to 40 per cent of capacity.

Mejia Victores says the military will go back to the barracks. While it is believed the military wants to leave politics before the situation worsens and its image deteriorates further, there is the ever-present possibility the military could return to power if it felt social unrest became critical.

The chief of state has ruled since

Aug. 8, 1983, when he deposed Gen. Efraim Rios Montt, who came to power in a March 23, 1982, military coup shortly after the last presidential election.

Julio Celso de Leon, a labour adviser and former congressman, said the new government "is the only hope we have to begin political reconstruction. There is much enthusiasm among the people."

But, he added, there is uncertainty among workers because "many interests are at play. We don't want them to deceive the people again... by starting to administer the country using favouritism to the groups that have always been accommodated, the elite, the oligarchy."

Human rights groups estimate at least 35,000 people, most of them Indians, were killed by the army and rightist death squads in the late 1970s and early 1980s as the military tried to crush the insurgency.

On Dec. 10, about 300 members of the Neutral Support Group held a half-mile march to the National Palace to demand the military government account for missing relatives of the group's members. Many of the 800 members say their relatives never return after being taken away by groups of armed men, either unidentified or from government security forces.

Nineth Garcia, a leader of the group, says it will hold a silent protest outside the National Theatre while Cerezo will take his oath of office there.

"We don't consider the role of president one of prosecutor and judge," Cerezo said in the past week. "That corresponds to the courts. The initiative is up to the people affected."

Cerezo, 43, a long-time Christian Democratic leader, has survived three attempts on his life in recent years during a time in which more than 300 party leaders have died in political violence. He says improving the justice system is one of his most important tasks.

He has called for a Dec. 15 meeting of the presidents of Costa Rica, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Panama and the president-elect of Honduras and has proposed creation of a Central American parliament, directly elected by the people.

Cerezo says he envisions the parliament as a group that would help resolve the region's major problems.

International press counts cost of South African clampdown

LONDON (R) — South Africa's clampdown on media coverage of riots has helped keep daily images of strife in that country off television screens around the world — but the story is still being told.

However, newsmen in Western countries appear divided on exactly how the coverage of the turmoil in South Africa has been affected by Pretoria's restrictions announced last November.

The South African government had blamed reporting of the riots for a spate of sanctions and world condemnation of Pretoria. The measures against the press included the banning of television crews and photographers from covering unrest in areas under emergency rule, except with police permission. Non-photographic journalists also faced tough curbs.

Two-and-a-half months after the restrictions were announced, Reuters correspondents report on how Western media view their impact on the South Africa story.

United States

The consensus among network and print sources questioned in New York is that the restrictions affect television more than print media, but that the story is still seen as significant and well covered.

All the sources said they were stressing South African coverage as much as before the restrictions were imposed. But they differed on whether the public's interest was waning.

Network sources said they preferred to avoid file footage. CBS vice president for foreign news and operations David Bukbaum said if they could not show the story, they could still tell it. "We just have a correspondent stand up against a tree and tell the story," he said, adding that there was no fall in interest and the U.S. public was vitally interested.

At NBC, general manager of

New York Times deputy foreign editor John Darton said "you see fewer dramatic pictures in the paper", and when you do see one, such as a recent shot of people fleeing teargas, "it's striking — I realised then it had been a few weeks since I had seen that."

But he said pictures did not determine how a story was played, and believed the public was still very interested.

"Any story will ebb and flow, but this one gets on the front page very easily and deserves to," said Darton.

Britain

Journalists said the clampdown had led to the South Africa story moving off front pages.

"The temptation in the press is and always has been that if you don't have the pictures, you downgrade the story," said Alan Protheroe, a British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) news editor. He said restrictions on broadcast news have made it harder to cover fully events in South Africa.

"In television, our job is to take the picture, record the sound. We have to be out there. We have to show the violence. We have to be on the front lines," he said.

The Guardian newspaper said its reporters in South Africa were more deskbound now and coverage had become more passive, with journalists relying more on police and official sources.

"The South African government is winning," said Nicholas Dallman, assistant foreign editor. "The quality of coverage has gone down. By clamping down on the press, it's made it very hard to do any kind of good investigatory journalism."

Australia

Girish Kumar, foreign news editor of the Sydney Morning Herald, said the restrictions meant its cor-



A mass funeral for victims of South Africa violence; many have died since the clampdown, and strikes and protests are on the rise (File photo)

they are continuing to give prominent treatment to South Africa. ARD, one of the two main television channels, said its coverage had decreased since the curbs, but the restrictions had not removed the disturbances from the public eye.

"Our reporting of South Africa has not suffered other than visually," ARD foreign news editor Peter Sedat said. "We are not giving the story any less prominence because of what the South African government has done."

ARD and rival channel ZDF

said absence of film of disturbances from restricted areas meant relying more on written reports and film of events such as protest rallies elsewhere in South Africa to reflect the climate of unrest.

"We are trying to report what is happening as fully as we can," said Karl-Heinz Bolle, director of ZDF television news. "We have used every justified means to maintain coverage."

Newspapers say their coverage has not suffered from the curbs and that the availability of photographs to highlight a report is not a factor in determining its priority.

"If anything, our coverage has at times been greater than before the restrictions," the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung's African affairs editor, Robert von Lucius, said.

Editors at Die Welt said they did not feel affected by the measures. A spokesman said: "Our reports are more of an analytical and background nature. If you apply newsworthiness as the criterion, our coverage has remained constant over a long period."

France

The French media devoted a great deal of space to South Africa until the curbs in November, with wide TV coverage and numerous frontpage stories.

Since then, TV coverage has been considerably reduced. Edouard Lor, foreign editor for the Antenne-2 network, said: "We have sharply reduced our coverage since the restrictions. Now we get from local TV what is con-

venient for the (South African) government, such as tribal feuds for example."

Paul-Jean Franceschini, deputy editor at Le Monde, said coverage of South Africa by the paper has not been affected by the restrictions on television networks. "We have neither reduced nor increased our stories on South Africa," he said.

"But it is fair to admit that the overall cover of South Africa by the French media has been less dramatic and therefore less damaging to the Pretoria authorities."

Netherlands

Newsman said the restrictions had reduced the impact of day-to-day coverage although television and the press were still reporting developments as fully as possible.

"One picture can often tell more than a whole page of print," said Nicolas Klein, joint foreign editor at the Rotterdam paper NRC Handelsblad.

"From South Africa, we cannot get everything we want. We regret that very much," he said.

Others agreed, but doubted whether the public's interest in South Africa was waning as a result. Links of history, culture and language have led the Dutch to follow events there closely and they are vigorous critics of apartheid.

Denmark

The head of Danish television current affairs, Lasse Jensen, said: "We have not quite felt the consequences yet of the South Afri-

can decision. We still have a flow of pictures coming in from South Africa."

Lars Moeller-Rasmussen, co-foreign editor of the Daily Information, said: "It has not had any effect at all. I think there has been a slight drop in South Africa coverage over the past month simply because the story goes on and on."

Norway

Norwegian media said Pretoria's embargo of film of police and racial violence had seriously hampered efforts to keep South Africa at the top of daily news bulletins.

"We are clearly reluctant to run breaking stories when we have not got footage to document our reports," Kari Mekjan, foreign desk editor at Norwegian television said. "This has dramatically affected our coverage, often resulting in abbreviated reports or leading us to drop them all together."

Sweden

Journalists said the restrictions had made a significant difference to their coverage of South Africa.

"Pictures are our basic working material so of course the ban has affected us," Olle Stenholm, foreign editor for the TV news programme rapport told the media newspaper Journalisten.

Bengt Albons, foreign editor of Dagens Nyheter newspaper, said: "The story had already begun to move downpage before the ban as we had become used to daily reports of the violence."



Government patrols: Using force to subdue black protesters and to aid neighbouring right-wing rebels (file photos)

foreign news Jerry Lamprecht said they try to prepare more news features and background pieces, so that if they cannot get footage of daily violence, the presenter can report the latest unrest and "that hard lead is used to get into the background piece."

He also said that despite restrictions, U.S. television can do more reporting in South Africa than in many other places in Africa and the Middle East.

At the 24-hour news station Cable News Network (CNN), executive vice-president Ed Turner said CNN got much of its film from Washington and tried to flesh out the story with comments from diplomats, expert observers and others. He thought the U.S. public's interest in the South Africa story had slumped.

He added: "The ban has had an effect — to benefit the government of South Africa. That is pretty clear, and it has sort of wor-

respondent in South Africa had an undue dependence on official versions and local newspaper reports of incidents.

"He has to depend on what the official version of it is and what the local papers would be reporting of the incident, so it's third hand rather than on-the-spot reporting."

The type of photographs were also affected. "The pictures are somewhat restricted. The picture of security police chasing or bashing people in crowds you don't see at all."

Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) acting news programme editor Neil Ross said the impact of some South African stories made up for the lack of graphic footage.

"It is a hindrance but it's not making us reduce its prominence at the moment," Ross said.

West Germany

Media in West Germany say



Sharpeville: 25 years after the notorious murder of 69 blacks, unrest has become 'endemic' (File photo)

Friends as well as enemies are targets in murky spy world

By Christopher Hanson

WASHINGTON — It comes as no surprise when nations are caught spying on adversaries, but cases uncovered recently in the United States show that allies, too, target one another in the murky world of espionage.

"The only sin in espionage is getting caught," former Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) chief Richard Helms said recently in a blunt insider's comment on the "friendly spy" espers.

That friends spy on the U.S. — U.S. Navy intelligence analyst Jonathan Pollard, 31, is soon to stand trial on charges of spying for Israel, a close U.S. ally.

Retired CIA analyst Larry Wu-Tai Chin, 63, faces trial on charges of spying for China, which has sought friendly ties with America for some time.

CIA employee Sharon Schanage, 29, pleaded guilty last autumn to spying for China, whose ties with Washington were "good"

according to a State Department official. The FBI said Schanage, now in prison, had disclosed the names of Ghanaian nationals spying for the CIA in the West African country.

U.S. intelligence sources say such cases are not unusual and that, for instance, Washington has been keeping close tabs on Taiwanese diplomats since it was discovered that Taiwan spies acquired secret U.S. reports on China in the late 1970s.

Ex-White House aide John Ehrlichman told Reuters he found a tiny listening device stuck in his lapel — apparently by French intelligence — during President Nixon's 1969 trip to Paris. He said he turned the "bug" over to U.S. security men.

U.S. officials, who asked not to be identified, conceded that Washington secretly gathers information on friendly nations (South Korea, Greece, West Germany, and many others) as well but insisted it did not seek to plant "moles" within their governments as it would in hostile

countries.

They said earth-orbiting satellites watch over friendly nations as do military attaches in the U.S. embassies.

South Africa expelled two American military attaches in 1979, saying that high-power spy cameras had been found on their plane, which they had used throughout Southern Africa.

In "The Puzzle Palace" a book on the top-secret National Security Agency (NSA), James Bamford says there is evidence NSA got a cipher machine in the 1950s to break allied codes.

The main reason nations spy on friends, an ex-CIA official told Reuters, is that interests often clash and rivalries occur even among close allies, which try to keep secrets even as "friendly" spy agencies try to uncover them.

U.S. ties with Britain and Israel are of the tightest kind, for instance, and Washington shares intelligence with both — but there is evidence it has spied on each country and that Israel has spied on the United States.

An unpublished 1977 congressional report said a highly secret U.S. intelligence unit routinely intercepted British government communications between London and Washington.

The report quotes an NSA employee as telling congressional investigators: "I was one of a whole team... whose only job was to read and process intercepted British communications."

Sources in Congress say the report, a copy of which was provided to Reuters by a private source, was never released.

Why would the United States want to spy on Britain?

A congressional foreign policy analyst used the 1982 Falklands war between Britain and Argentina as an example to illustrate possible motives: Washington tried to mediate that dispute, he recalled, and would likely have used every means it had to learn what London was doing or planning.

Intercepted communications would have helped that cause.

Western diplomats say Israel

has strong motives for spying in America despite generous U.S. military aid to Tel Aviv. It is concerned that Arabists in the U.S. government might tilt American policy toward the Arabs and wants to keep tabs on shifts in U.S. plans for arms sales and peace moves.

A CIA report made public by Iranian militants who seized the U.S. embassy in Tehran in 1979 said Israeli intelligence had spied on U.S. officials to collect information "on secret U.S. policy decisions, if any, concerning Israel."

Another possible motive for Israeli spying is the nuclear weapons arsenal U.S. officials think Israel has built.

The information Pollard is accused of having supplied to Israeli agents included data on terrorist organizations, according to FBI officials.

In the past, friendly-country diplomats caught spying have been quietly declared *persona non grata* and asked to leave.

In the Pollard case, however,

Washington demanded an apology and access to some Israeli diplomats, who the FBI alleged had received his information. Israel eventually allowed U.S. investigators to interview the diplomats and expressed regret over any spying that might have occurred.

But Israeli member of parliament and former ambassador Simcha Diniz recently told reporters: "If cases like this would have happened in the past, it would always be dealt with in a very discreet manner, away from the public eye."

He said America had treated Israel like a hostile country.

In an incident during the 1967 Middle East war, Israeli warplanes attacked the spy ship *Liberty*, which U.S. intelligence sources say had been intercepting Israeli communications, killing 34 Americans and wounding 171.

Israel said it mistook the U.S. ship for an enemy Egyptian vessel. But some U.S. officials say privately they are convinced Israel knew it was an American spy ship.

News service aims to span the culture gap between North, South

By Kenneth D. Nordin

HANOVER, New Hampshire — The news story was from a freelance writer in Santiago, Chile. It described how political opponents of General Augusto Pinochet's government were using videocassette recorders to spread criticism of the regime.

In early January, a computer terminal located in a historic colonial building near Dartmouth College began transmitting the story into the Data Feature Service of the Associated Press. This episode, viewed by a handful of people, launched the South-North News Service (SNNS), an educational news organization devoted to producing articles from Third-World countries.

Among those watching was Peter Martin, the news service's founder and editor in chief. Mr. Martin, who is also executive director of the Institute of Current World Affairs, has spent nearly five years making the news service a reality.

His objective is twofold: to develop a system for training Third-World journalists, and to provide the American and European press with feature and analytical stories about the culture and everyday life of people in developing countries.

Martin says his news service can be a practical approach to bridging the cultural gap between the world's rich and poor nations. "An awful lot of money has been spent analysing and talking about the problem, with little being accomplished," he says.

To launch his project, Martin has raised more than \$800,000 from 20 grant-giving foundations, among them the MacArthur Foundation and Exxon Educational Foundation.

Martin is well aware of the skepticism that exists among American foreign-news editors as to whether his news service will endure. He has travelled across the country attempting to convince editors to subscribe.

"The first thing I've learned," he says, "is that there is not a single newspaper in the United States or Canada that needs any more international reporting. They have in plenty, from the New York

Times service, the Los Angeles Times service, the Washington Post service, The Christian Science Monitor service, AP, UPI, and Reuters."

Martin, a former editor and foreign correspondent of True magazine, estimates the average foreign-news editor never looks at 80 per cent of the material he receives.

How then does he plan to make SNNS work? "It has to provide services to its subscribers that go beyond the ones they're getting, and that are individually tailored to the needs of each paper," he says.

SNNS newspaper clients will receive ten stories a week. Most of the articles will cover general-interest topics. Stories currently in the works range from the re-emergence of democracy in Turkey to a description of exotic Egyptian fruit juices to illegal crocodile hunting in Australia.

Martin has enlisted 167 writers living in some 25 different countries to submit stories to SNNS. The number of writers in each country varies. Five of them, for example, reside in the southeastern African nation, Zambia, while nearly a dozen others will be reporting from India.

Each correspondent in the Third World will work closely with a senior editor in the United States, and their stories are apt to go through several drafts before SNNS sends an approved version to its clients. The interchange between editors and writers — most of the editors are retired journalists — is a key element in the training of the Third-World journalists.

Martin has recruited some 30 American newsmen, many of them retired Time correspondents, to serve as senior editors, and he is looking for more. Working directly under Martin in Hanover are three managing editors, who will serve tours of duty from three to six months. Time magazine will be sending some of its staff members to work for SNNS and will pay their salaries — U.S. Information Agency.

The author is a special correspondent for the Christian Science Monitor, where this article appeared January 9.

France's monarchy bides its time

The French monarchy could be on the way back, says the Count of Paris. David Marsh talks to the 77-year-old who is the tenth generation successor to Louis XIV.

PARIS — In a large office lined with imperial portraits looking down disdainfully on a melee of Snoopy dogs, dominoes and chocolates ready for Christmas distribution, Henri, Count of Paris, head of the 1,000-year-old royal house of France, holds court. Given time and patience, he says, the monarchy could be on the way back.

During a 50-year-long political career in the shadows of three Republics the Count has watched France's turbulent and tortuous 20th century history unfold and slowly pass him by.

Now a spry good-humoured 77, the tenth generation successor to Louis XIV presides not over Versailles but over an old people's home at Chantilly, north of Paris, run by his family foundation and with roots going back more than three centuries.

At an age when most men's minds turn to other-worldly affairs, the Count is still playing a waiting game. But, with general elections approaching which this year could confront President Francois Mitterrand with an Opposition-controlled National Assembly, Prince Henri Robert Ferdinand Marie Louis-Philippe d'Orleans believes that time may

at last be on his side.

The Fifth Republic fashioned by General de Gaulle (who at one stage in 1957-58 toyed seriously with the idea of putting Henri back on the throne) is not working in the way its founder intended, the Count points out. France has a President with semi-monarchical powers, who nonetheless is being forced to descend more and more into the political arena.

"The President is practically a King — but he does not have the ability to act as an arbitrator," he says. "I try to make my views known in public that if France really wants a King — then it should have one."

Mindful of the distinct absence of crowds in the streets clamouring for restoration of the monarchy — and of what happened to Louis XVI in 1793 — the Count takes care not to push his views too forcefully.

A liberal education, forced experience of foreign travel (the royal family was exiled between 1926 and 1950; in 1940 the Count joined incognito the Foreign Legion) and the benefit of a family fortune have combined to give the Count benevolent political views.

The wealth tax introduced by

the Socialist government "does not shock me," he says. "It is perfectly normal that this exists." He checks questions over his personal wealth — "the tax inspectors know that."

The Count says the right-wing opposition's programme on the economy appears somewhat "simplistic." After the dashing of the Left's initial "dreams and illusions," Socialist economic measures "are starting to bear fruit."

Like many managers in industry, he is worried that a return of the Right and a bid to undo some of the present government's social measures could lead to unrest in the factories.

In 1980, a call by President Giscard d'Estaing for the Count to speak out in favour of the Right before the 1981 presidential elections went unheeded. Instead, Henri brought out a communique suggesting that France should have the ability to change government.

This was interpreted as backing for Mr. Mitterrand. The Count has steadfastly refused to divulge who he chose in the polling booth. He says he knew Mr. Mitterrand before he came to power, and has maintained contact since he became president.

He does not underline that the choice of King would need to be ratified by universal suffrage — a decision which might pose problems over the succession. The House recognises the masculine line only, which might even be a vote winner in male chauvinist France.

Hopes are chiefly invested in his grandson, Jean, aged 20 and studying philosophy at the Sorbonne. He has been designated as successor after the Count disinherited his eldest surviving son for transgressing family rules over remarriage.

As his elderly charges at the Conde Foundation home turn their minds to seasonal festivities — "sometimes we get them to dance, or at least tap their feet in their wheelchairs" — the Count at least believes he has helped the French come to terms with their history.

"When I started my political career, the Republicans didn't accept the monarchists and vice versa. Now at least there's no more hate and resentment. People might say I'm a dreamer with high hopes, but at least they don't say: 'He's a lunatic, let's banish him!'"

— Financial Times news feature.

United lead cut to two, Liverpool wins easily

LONDON (AP) — Manchester United conceded two late goals and suffered a 3-2 upset at home by Nottingham Forest on Saturday to see its lead cut to two points at the top of the English first division.

Everton, Liverpool and Chelsea, the three chasing teams, all won convincingly to close the gap. Everton won 2-0 at Birmingham, Liverpool beat West Ham 3-1 and Chelsea triumphed 3-0 at the bottom club, West Bromwich Albion.

Two goals by Danish international Jesper Olsen failed to save United in front of another big crowd at Old Trafford.

Visitors Forest took the lead two minutes before halftime when Colin Walsh scored against the run of play.

Olsen levelled with a penalty at the start of the second half and then put the league leader in front after 67 minutes.

But with United seemingly on its way to another home win, Forest dramatically snatched the points with two strikes on the counter-attack in the last nine minutes.

Walsh scored his second goal after 81 minutes and Nigel Clough, son of Forest manager Brian Clough, won the match with a header with two minutes left on the clock.

Fifth-placed West Ham, enjoying an excellent season, went to

Liverpool full of confidence despite 23 years without a victory at Anfield.

The "Hammers" matched their hosts in a goal-less first half but caved in once Denmark's Jan Mølby had opened the score with a controversial penalty on the hour.

West Ham captain Ray Stewart was sent off for disputing the kick, and within minutes Ian Rush had scored his 100th league goal to make it 2-0.

Paul Walsh put the match beyond doubt before Alan Dickens pulled back a late consolation goal for the visitors.

Birmingham, one place off the bottom of the table and without a manager following the midweek resignation of Ron Saunders, put up stern resistance against the defending league champion.

But Everton proved that craft outweighs graft as England international striker Gary Lineker took advantage of two Birmingham lapses to score a goal in each half.

David Speedie, Jerry Murphy and Pat Nevin were the Chelsea scorers at lullless West Bromwich, for whom Derek Statham

missed a penalty when the score was 2-0.

Sheffield Wednesday, outplayed for long periods by visiting Oxford United, won the match with five minutes left to stay in sixth place.

Of the seven clubs at the foot of the standings, only Leicester City managed a point in a 2-2 draw with Arsenal, substitute Tony Sealey equalising for Leicester three minutes from time.

Manchester United led the first division standings with 55 points, followed by Everton, Liverpool and Chelsea on 53, West Ham on 48 and Sheffield Wednesday on 45.

Norwich City won the big second division promotion battle with a 2-0 win over Portsmouth while surprise Scottish premier division leader, Heart of Midlothian, confounded the experts again by winning 1-0 at defending champion Aberdeen, normally a graveyard for visiting sides.

Hearts, as the Edinburgh team is known, led the table by four points.

Forest, knocked out of the F.A. Cup by second division Blackburn Rovers in midweek, bounced back with a shock league win at Old Trafford to open up the title race.

After Walsh had opened the score at the end of the first half, United showed more conviction after the break.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Group leaves for Cairo sportsfest

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan Youth Organisation Director General Mohammad Jameel Abu Al Tayyeb led an 88-member Jordanian sports mission to Cairo on Saturday to participate in the second Jordanian-Egyptian sports week, which opens Sunday. Competition will be held in wrestling, soccer, volleyball, boxing, and track and field.

Tele Santana to coach Brazil

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) — Tele Santana, who said a week ago he would not manage Brazil in the World Cup soccer finals in Mexico later this year, was appointed Friday to the job, new Brazilian Football Association (CBF) President Octavio Pinto Guimarães said. He coached Brazil's talented side in the last tournament in Spain in 1982 before resigning on arrival back home saying the job was not for "a serious and honest man." He swore then nothing would make him change his mind. But legends of the side's green-and-yellow bedecked fans rejoiced last year when he took over from Evaristo Macedo, who was sacked following a serious of defeats against unheralded teams.

Kuwait will miss Asian tourney

KUWAIT (R) — Gulf Arab club champions Al Arabi will miss the inaugural Asian club soccer contest Sunday because of an international soccer ban on Kuwait. The world soccer governing body FIFA suspended Kuwait this month amid turmoil in local administration of the game, which has its roots in alleged misuse of huge sums of state funds. FIFA gave no reason for the ban, but said it would send a fact-finding mission, due to arrive next week. The secretary-general of the Kuwait Football Association (KFA), Khalid Al Harban, said meantime Al Arabi, the 1984/85 Gulf Arab club titleholders, cannot play in the Asian Club Championship starting Sunday in Saudi Arabia. Top club teams from Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, South Korea and Syria — winners of their sub-regions — vie for the Asian title in Jeddah in a tourney lasting until January 27.

Marita Koch demurs over retirement

EAST BERLIN (R) — Marita Koch, East Germany's 200 and 400 metres world record holder and Sportswoman of the Year, said Saturday she would compete in this year's European Athletic Championships in Stuttgart, West Germany, but left the question of her retirement open. Koch, interviewed by the Communist Party newspaper Neues Deutschland, also said she had no fears about the future of East German athletics after her generation left the world sporting stage. "There are many young girls here who take joy in their running and are given the chance to develop. Of course, they still have to train hard and thoroughly," she said.

Pete Rose: the insatiable baseball record machine

By John Phillips

Reuter

NEW YORK — What does Pete Rose, who holds more Major League baseball records than anyone else, want more than anything? He wants more records.

Try as he will, Rose just cannot stop thinking about records.

In town Friday to receive the Sporting News' Man of the Year award, mostly for breaking Ty Cobb's all-time hit record of 4,192 last summer, Rose at first said: "I don't have any individual goals for this year."

But then the fire that has driven him since he broke into the majors in 1963 caught up to him once again.

"Well, I'd like to be number one in runs scored. I'd really like to be number one in hits and runs scored," Rose said.

To add this record to his bulging trophy case, Rose once again must chase the ghost of Ty Cobb, who holds the all-time runs-scored mark of 2,244. Rose needs 95 runs to break the record.

The Cincinnati Reds' player-manager is 24 runs behind Babe Ruth and Hank Aaron, who are tied for second place by having crossed home plate 2,174 times in their big league careers.

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Monte Carlo Rally underway as 162 cars leave six start points

MONTE CARLO (R) — The 1986 Monte Carlo Rally got underway Saturday as 162 entrants for the 4,000-kilometre event left six European start points en route for Aix-Les-Bains in south-eastern France.

World rally champion Timo Salonen of Finland led a procession of over 50 cars past the Eiffel Tower in Paris for the non-competitive run to Aix-Les-Bains where the first official stage starts Sunday.

Salonen and fellow Finn Juha Kankkunen were in the first two Peugeot 505s which left Paris while West German Walter Roehrl, four times winner of the classic rally, headed 16 crews away from the West German starting point of Bad Homburg in his Audi quattro.

Lancia chose Sestriere in Italy for the departure of Finnish ace Henri Toivonen and Marikka Alen, among the favourites to win the 54th Monte Carlo Rally, which ends in Monaco next Friday.

Hundreds of people watched the departure in Paris under grey,

overcast skies, but the spectators in Bad Homburg had snow flurries to contend with.

Ten cars roared off in freezing but dry weather from Lausanne in Switzerland while 13 cars left Barcelona without incident to head for Port Bou on the border with France.

A spokeswoman for the Lancia organisers said they all hoped for snow. "The worse the weather, the greater the challenge," she said. Forecasters expect conditions over the next days to alternate between dry spells and showers.

Snow is due above altitudes of 800 metres.

Peugeot, who grabbed three of the top five places last year, face a potentially tougher challenge this time, following the emergence of the new Lancia Delta S4's and the MG Metro in last November's Royal Automobile Club (RAC) British rally, plus the perennial threat of Roehrl.

Fins will provide the danger at Lancia as well as Peugeot, where Kankkunen was recruited from

Toyota after victories in last year's Safari and Ivory Coast rallies in Africa to fill the gap left since Ari Vatanen was badly injured in Argentina.

Toivonen, whose father won the 1966 Monte Carlo rally, and Alen, gave the Delta S4 a dream debut in the RAC rally with a one-two victory.

Britain's Tony Pond, third in the RAC behind the two Lancias in an equally untried MG Metro, set out from Paris where his right-hand drive car contrasted with the vehicles of his European mainland rivals.

Pond is an experienced driver but he is making his Monte Carlo debut, like fellow Briton Malcolm Wilson in the second Metro. "Obviously I'm very excited. I hope it'll be a good event. I'm sure it will be," he told Reuters moments before the midday start.

"We've done a lot of work and practised in all kinds of conditions. The Peugeot and Lancias and all the quick four-wheel drive cars will be difficult to beat. It's a new ball-game for us."



Czechoslovakia's Ivan Lendl (left) and Sweden's Anders Jarryd each earned a trip to the semifinals of the Masters tennis tournament in New York City with victories on Friday.

Lendl and Jarryd gain semifinals

NEW YORK (R) — Top-seeded Ivan Lendl moved a step closer to the Masters' tennis championship final for the sixth successive year when he beat Tim Mayotte of the United States 6-3, 6-3 Friday to earn a semifinal clash with Andres Gomez of Ecuador.

Earlier, Sweden's Anders Jarryd reached the semifinals for the first time when he defeated Brad Gilbert of the United States 6-1, 6-2.

Neither Lendl nor Jarryd lost their serves in posting straight-set victories before a crowd of 12,700 at Madison Square Garden, although the Czechoslovak had to save break points in four games against Mayotte.

In Gomez, Lendl, twice Masters' champion, will be facing an opponent he has beaten 10 times in 11 meetings, including the last

eight matches.

Gilbert never approached the brilliance he demonstrated in upsetting second-seeded John McEnroe in three sets on Wednesday night in the opening round.

The Californian had trouble getting in his first service throughout and inexplicably chose to play conservatively rather than attacking, as he had in stunning McEnroe.

In beating McEnroe to record one of the biggest upsets in the history of the Masters, Gilbert had hammered in 10 aces and passed the New Yorker often with his powerful ground strokes.

But Gilbert failed to record a single ace Friday night and managed only 44 per cent of his first serves. He never mounted an aggressive attack, choosing instead to stay back and rally with Jarryd,

one of the steadiest players on the men's circuit.

The Swede said he was surprised that Gilbert had not attacked the net more often.

"I think he should have come in a little more than he did," said Jarryd who was beaten by McEnroe in the quarter-finals last year in his first appearance in the Masters. "But I started off very well and maybe that surprised him."

"He also missed a lot of first serves, so I was able to come in on his second serve and put a lot of pressure on him."

Gilbert said he had been distracted after his earlier win. "Taking nothing away from Anders, who I felt played a really good match, my biggest problem was that everyone was calling me and saying how great I had played," he said.

One night in Bangkok too much for Mexico's Pintor

BANGKOK (R) — Thailand's Samart Payak-Arun knocked out Lupe Pintor of Mexico Saturday to claim the World Boxing Council (WBC) super-bantamweight title which had been stripped from the Mexican before he had even entered the ring.

The 23-year-old Samart sent Pintor crashing to the canvas one minute 31 seconds into the fifth round of their scheduled 12-round fight with a hard left to the face.

The knock-out ended a miserable day for Pintor, who lost the title earlier for being 1.4 kilos over the 55-kilo limit. Had the Mexican beaten the Thai in the ring the title would have been declared vacant.

Samart, a relative newcomer to the international ring with only 10 fights, was clearly ahead throughout the fight. From the start he kept Pintor at bay with flicking right jabs and danced his way out

of any trouble.

The overweight Mexican, 3-1 on favourite, regularly missed his target and looked way off form. He stalked Samart constantly but was unable to land many of his vaunted punches.

He had said that win or lose he would quit the ring after Saturday's fight, but obviously he would have preferred to leave in style as champion.

At the official weigh-in Bobby Lee, WBC representative for the fight, ruled the Mexican had forfeited the title for being overweight.

Witherspoon outlasts Tubbs for WBA title

ATLANTA (R) — Tim Witherspoon chased champion Tony Tubbs for much of their fight Friday night to win the WBA world heavyweight title with a 15-round decision.

Two judges scored the fight 144-143 for Witherspoon and the other called it even at 143-143.

It was the second time Witherspoon has won a heavyweight championship. He lost his World Boxing Council title to Pinklon Thomas in 1984.

Tubbs, making his first title defence, suffered his first loss in 23 professional fights.



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Tel: 622198

SHAAN

(Colour)

Performances: 12:00, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00

Cinema

OPERA

Tel: 675573

BACHELOR PARTY

(Colour)

Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30

Squeeze prompts U.N. to cut various expenses

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The financially strapped United Nations is slashing travel costs, overtime and other expenses in hopes of saving about \$15 million this year, a U.N. spokesman said Friday.

He said Secretary General Javier Perez De Cuellar was sending a letter to all U.N. staff about measures he has decided to implement in view of the "serious financial situation" facing the organization.

The measures include:

- A 20 per cent reduction in costs relating to travel, the hiring of consultants, temporary assistance and overtime.
- Deferral of some alteration and maintenance projects at U.N. headquarters.
- Strict application of U.N. resolutions about cutting down on paper work.

The U.N. chief, who is curtailing his own travel, is also appealing to the chairman of U.N. bodies to cooperate in reducing expenditures.

The U.N. budget for 1986 is about \$830 million, but at the end of December member states still owed some \$242 million in back dues.

International Tin Council adjourns

LONDON (R) — The International Tin Council (ITC) Friday adjourned talks on proposals to solve the world tin crisis, with few signs of progress towards agreement on a rescue plan, ITC delegates said.

Negotiations will resume on Jan. 21 and in the meantime ITC member governments will consider the proposals, to share the burden of the council's losses with tin brokers and creditor banks, the delegates said.

But they added finance ministers from the Group of Five (G-5), the non-communist world's leading industrial nations, might discuss the crisis, which has almost paralysed the tin industry, when they meet in London.

Progress on the plan at the talks, which started on Tuesday, has been painfully slow and informal negotiations between ITC representative members and bankers and brokers Friday achieved nothing.

The proposals, put forward by Mr. Peter Graham of Chartered Bank and Mr. Ralph Kestenbaum of brokers Gerald Metals, envisage setting up a company charged with gradually selling off huge stockpiles of tin which the ITC built up over several years in an attempt to prop up the metal's world price.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righler Institute

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY, JAN. 19, 1986
GENERAL TENDENCIES: This is a day fraught with considerable activity, and a potentially highly organized course of action is now replaced by a more imaginative set of circumstances.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19): A good day to hunt around for artistic pieces to make your home more charming. Tonight be careful of shady persons.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20): Sunday pursuits can bring happiness during the daytime but steer clear of an argument in the evening.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21): Concentrate on improving your image and develop your character in right channels. Steer clear of one who can be sarcastic.

MOON-CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21): Be happy with your mate at a restaurant that you both enjoy, but tonight rest up and plan the new week well.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21): You can have inspiring and worthwhile talks with partners today whose ideas are different to your own, but stick to your own beliefs.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22): Plan those activities that most please you during the daytime that will make the future brighter, but avoid dull tasks tonight.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Go out early with friends and have a happy time with them. In the evening, get to work on some project you started recently.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Be happy with your family today and tonight fix up your home as you want it to be. Plan for the new week's activities.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Get into amusements that make you feel happy and alive, but tonight drive with care and avoid possible accidents.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20): Study how to improve your financial status and think in a more modern vein. Be frugal tonight.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 18): Pursue what you most want in a positive and sure way, and it is yours, then take it easy tonight.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to Mar. 20): You are inspired how to gain your aspirations so carry through quickly for best results to follow.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he or she can readily comprehend whatever is of a modern nature, so be sure you send to the most up-to-date schools where such an individual can be trained properly so that great success is possible during the lifetime. A new era product who needs special handling. Teach good manners.

Italy struggles to keep aloft faith in lira

ROME (R) — Currency markets reacted calmly Friday to a credit squeeze announced by the Italian government to curb speculation against the lira, and dealers said they were not surprised by what they saw as increased vigilance by the authorities.

The lira was fixed Friday at 681.75 to the West German mark, slightly firmer than Thursday, following Thursday night's announcement of a package of measures to protect the lira.

The Italian currency has recently come under growing pressure, chiefly against the mark, because of speculation that it would be devalued within the European Monetary System

(EMS), a group of eight European Community (EC) currencies aimed at achieving exchange rate stability.

Prime Minister Bettino Craxi said last week he did not envisage a devaluation, a view echoed by senior officials.

Share prices rose strongly in active business on the Milan stock exchange Friday, gaining three per cent within the first hour of business, according to the leading bourse index.

The key measures announced by the treasury and foreign trade ministries and the Bank of Italy were a ceiling on bank loans, an increase in short-term treasury bill yields and new foreign currency

requirements governing export receipts.

The moves clashed with recent trends to liberalise Italian markets but Bank of Italy officials said they were strictly temporary and did not signify a basic shift of policy.

The treasury ministry said the devaluation speculation had led to a drain in Italy's foreign currency reserves.

It gave no details but latest Bank of Italy figures show a fall of more than 6,000 billion lire (nearly 24 billion) in net reserves between last September and November.

Treasury Minister Giovanni Goria said the lira was at the correct level but he blamed a general

"lack of faith in the Italian economy" for the outflow of reserves.

The lira was devalued in the EMS last July by an effective eight per cent but it has since dropped against the mark. Against the dollar it was fixed Friday at 1,681 lire, little changed from Thursday afternoon.

Financial operators said they had detected signs of greater vigilance by the authorities who they said might have been spurred by criticism of the way they handled the July devaluation.

The treasury ministry said speculators had been converting foreign currency debts into lira debts, delaying receipts from abroad and speeding up payments abroad.

G-5 commence debate on cutting interest rates

LONDON (R) — Finance ministers of the five leading industrial democracies met here Saturday to debate bringing interest rates down, a move that would speed up global economic growth and help hard-pressed debtor states.

"If we postpone reduction of interest rates for too long, we shall be putting the brakes on the recovery and we could even jeopardise it altogether," French Finance Minister Pierre Berégovoy said before the meeting started.

But Western monetary sources said widely divergent economic conditions in the so-called Group of Five (G-5) countries all but ruled out a concerted reduction when the meeting ends Sunday.

Instead, finance ministers of the United States, Japan, West Germany, Britain and France are likely to issue a brief statement saying that the global economic stage is set for reducing their interest rates in 1986.

At a news conference Friday in New York, Mr. Berégovoy pleaded for agreement on the issue this weekend. But it seemed that only Japan favoured immediate concerted action.

For months, Bonn has resisted U.S. pressure for lower German interest rates, while in America itself, a recent upsurge in economic growth makes an early reduction unlikely.

At their landmark meeting last Sept. 22, in New York's plush Plaza Hotel, the G-5 agreed to drive the powerful dollar down on foreign exchange markets.

The move was aimed at defusing protectionist sentiment on Capitol Hill, where lawmakers had become enraged by the huge \$150 billion U.S. trade deficit, by cheapening U.S. exports and making imports more costly.

But the United States also pressed West Germany and Japan to stimulate their economies to help sustain global growth as the American economic expansion subsided.

Nevertheless, Bonn has insisted that recent tax-cutting measures

were sufficient to boost its economy and balked at cutting its interest rates further.

Japan, meanwhile, is fearful that if it cut its rates in isolation, it would weaken the yen and bring about an embarrassing upsurge in its exports to America.

Accordingly, Tokyo has in recent weeks prodded its allies to agree on joint interest rate reductions.

And in Britain, where the pound sterling has been buffeted by the sliding price of oil, a major export earner for the country, interest rates were recently boosted in a bid to defend the currency.

London is therefore likely to rebuff any attempt by its allies to press for an immediate British cut in rates.

Nevertheless, there is widespread agreement that the long, arduous fight against inflation is all but over, a fact that is graphically illustrated by the collapsing price of commodities like oil and tin.

In general therefore, U.S. Treasury Secretary James Baker is likely to secure agreement on a statement setting the stage for staged rate falls in 1986, monetary sources say.

Even though such a statement would be relatively innocuous, it would be bound to have an impact on financial markets, economists believe.

For Mr. Baker, a general understanding to lower rates would give his aim plan to shore up the international debt situation a significant shot in the arm.

Monetary officials say the American treasury secretary is anxious to keep the plan afloat.

But lower international rates would relieve the debt servicing burden of the hard-hit Third World debtor nations, who together owe up to \$800 billion.

Strong downward pressure continues on world oil prices

NEW YORK (R) — A series of international and domestic developments Friday put further pressure on already battered world oil prices.

Nigeria was reported to be indirectly planning an increase in its crude oil production by negotiating a series of deals in which the price of its crude oil would be based on current refined product prices.

And in the United States, one oil company cut its price for the key West Texas intermediate crude oil by a further \$1.25 a barrel after Thursday's cut of 50 cents a barrel.

Nigeria has come closer to signing "oilback pacts" with several major U.S. oil companies which could affect between 500,000 and one million barrels per day (b/d) of its output, U.S. industry sources said.

Crude oil is priced on a "oilback" basis by calculating the price of an average barrel of the crude based on the ratio of prices of the products produced from it.

Chevron, Exxon, Mobil and Shell all are near to signing agreements with the state-owned Nigeria National Petroleum Corp. (NNPC), the sources said. However, none of the companies would confirm the reports.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

AMMAN (U.T.) — The following table summarizes trading activities at the Amman Financial Market during the weeks starting Saturday, Jan. 11, '86 and ending Wednesday Jan. 15, 1986 (Figures in Jordanian dinars).

Name of company	Number of shares	Volume of trade	Opening price	Closing price	Par value
Jordan Islamic Bank	100	240	2.450	2.400	1.000
Jordan Kuwait Bank	670	1638	2.460	2.460	1.000
Jordan Gulf Bank	16361	24542	1.490	1.500	1.000
Housing Bank	1202	1808	1.450	1.520	1.000
Jordan Securities Corporation	998	1008	1.020	1.100	1.000
Jordan Finance House	15080	12939	0.860	0.860	1.000
Islamic Investment House	4212	4176	1.000	1.000	1.000
Jordan National Bank	6740	17496	2.580	2.600	1.000
Jordan Investment & Finance Corporation	52445	35782	1.150	1.180	1.000
Finance & Credit Corporation (50%)	26620	10586	0.920	0.880	1.000
Aqarot (75%)	550	333	0.600	0.600	1.000
National Portfolio Securities (50%)	124353	85687	0.650	0.700	1.000
National Financial Investments	26300	27333	1.030	1.050	1.000
Arab Bank Ltd.	980	160441	164.250	162.500	10.000
Jordan French Insurance	370	1050	2.810	2.830	1.000
Refco Insurance (50%)	505	202	0.910	0.900	1.000
Jordan Electric Power	6202	9303	1.460	1.500	1.000
National Shipping Lines	1300	915	0.710	0.720	1.000
Jordan Dairy	27269	32491	1.110	1.200	1.000
Arab Pharmaceutical Manufacturing	4285	12634	3.050	3.000	1.000
Intermediate Petrochemical Industries	55985	37066	0.650	0.670	1.000
Jordan Paper & Cardboard Factories	1038	2533	2.400	2.450	1.000
Jordan Phosphates Mines	1170	2883	2.400	2.480	1.000
Jordan Lime & Brick	4500	1295	0.290	0.290	1.000
National Industries	1370	1075	0.870	0.760	1.000
Jordan Petroleum Refinery	4514	29993	6.600	6.650	5.000
Arab Investment Bank	700	1386	2.000	1.980	1.000
Industrial Commercial and Agricultural (Intaj)	973	1740	1.850	1.800	1.000
Jordan Wooden Industries (JWICO)	4600	4920	2.200	1.200	1.000
Arab Chemical Detergents	490	695	1.410	1.470	1.000
Petra Bank	46434	135507	3.100	2.900	1.000
Jordan Leasing and Equipment	6781	4289	0.630	0.640	1.000
Alladin Industries	27150	19777	0.720	0.740	1.000
Cairo Amman Bank	10	230	21.000	23.000	1.000
Livestock and Poultry	23535	12944	0.550	0.550	1.000
Jordan Tobacco and Cigarettes	512	6089	10.000	11.760	5.000
Arab Aluminium	137469	111549	0.780	0.840	1.000
Jordan Insurance	1754	19628	11.200	11.210	1.000
Woolen Industries	170	141	0.820	0.830	1.000
Jordan Industrial Investments	100	70	0.700	0.700	1.000
Yarmouk Insurance	400	2200	5.500	5.500	1.000
Jordan Hotel and Tourism	609	1755	2.800	2.800	1.000
Garage Owners Federation Office	679	3735	5.700	5.500	1.000
Jerusalem Insurance	1326	1517	1.150	1.150	1.000
Arab Insurance	2263	1686	0.760	0.760	1.000
Arab International Hotels	13900	5193	0.360	0.370	1.000
Dar Al Sha'ab Press	300	213	0.740	0.710	1.000
Publishing and Distribution					
National Shipping Lines	1300	915	0.710	0.700	1.000
Arab Development and Investment	2936	1917	0.800	0.800	1.000
Management and Consultation	200	39	0.500	0.430	1.000
Jordan Worsted Mills	2714	9770	3.750	3.600	1.000
Jordan Ceramic	150	143	1.030	0.950	1.000
Jordan Pipes Manufacturing	2600	2903	1.140	1.110	1.000
Chemical Industries	5666	5439	1.060	0.960	1.000
Jordan Industries and Matches (JIMCO)	500	357	0.770	0.710	1.000
Jordan Fertilizers	95	222	2.400	2.350	10.000
Grand total	669971	869668			

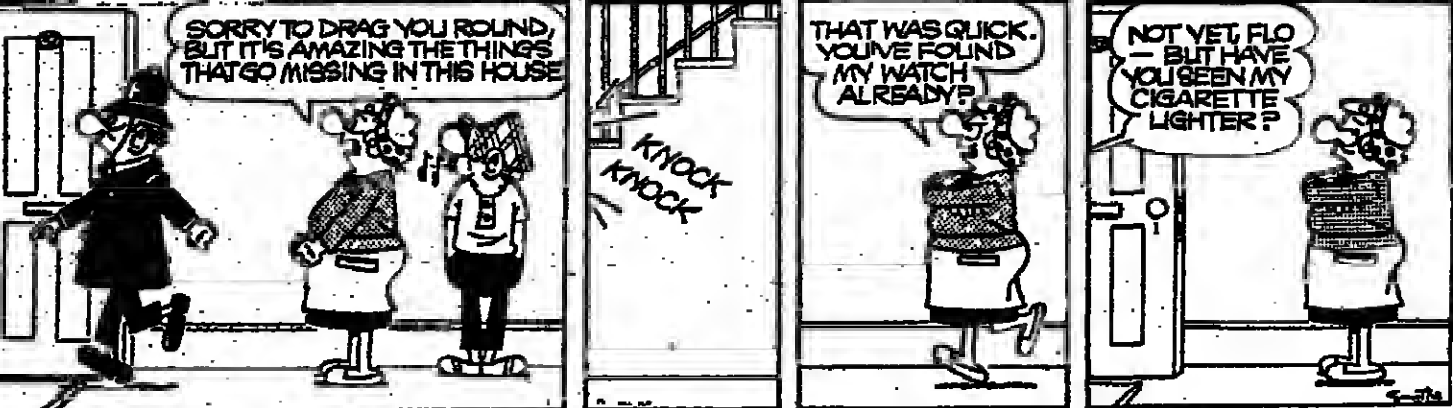
Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



THE BETTER HALF.



JUMBLE.

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

Disgraceful! But interesting!

WHAT SCANDAL HAS TO BE.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: TO BE

Yesterday's Jumbles: MOSSY QUEUE MATURE EXODUS

Answer: An impatient driver who has to stop for a traffic light usually does this — "SEES RED"

THE Daily Crossword

by Gayle Dean

ACROSS

1. Pseudonym

5. Author of "The Hobbit"

10. Part of a car

13. A type of wood

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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

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Lesotho reportedly quiet after clashes

MASERU (R) — Residents of Maseru said the Lesotho capital was quiet on Saturday after fighting at an army barracks and other clashes in which South African state-run radio reported 17 people were killed in the past 24 hours.

Residents about four kilometres south of the city centre said small-scale fighting started at the Makonyane paramilitary force barracks late Friday afternoon and sporadic shooting was heard until midnight.

Radio South Africa quoted residents as saying 15 people died in the fighting between the country's paramilitary forces and members of a youth league.

The radio said two more people died in another incident on the outskirts of the city. It said an unknown number of people were injured.

There was no immediate official comment on Saturday's reports. Information Minister Desmond Shishe denied on Friday that paramilitary factions were battling each other.

The residents, who asked not to be identified, said they believed the barracks clash was over the arming and activities of the youth wing of Prime Minister Chief Leabua Jonathan's ruling Basutoland National Party (BNP).

toria said the controls remained in force on Saturday.

Maseru residents said there had been tension in Lesotho's 1,500-member paramilitary force since Wednesday, when troops surrounded Mr. Jonathan's office in the centre of town and ordered all workers out of the building.

The government denied speculation that there may have been a coup attempt and said the troops were merely reacting to a bomb scare.

Workers in nearby offices, however, said they were sceptical about the official explanation.

After a previous South African border clamp in 1983 on the three major and 11 secondary crossing points, Lesotho bowed to South African pressure to curb the presence of anti-apartheid combatants in the country.

Jonathan has persistently refused to enter into a non-aggression pact similar to accords signed by Mozambique and Swaziland.

'Marcos' plane escapes collision

CALAPAN, Philippines (R) — A light plane carrying President Ferdinand Marcos to an election rally narrowly escaped a collision with an air force plane on Saturday and only split-second action by an airship official preventing a disaster, reporters said.

Mr. Marcos' plane was about to land on Mindoro Island, central Philippines, when an air force plane roared towards it on collision course.

The reporters, waiting for Mr. Marcos at Calapan airport, said an air force official rushed forward frantically waving his arms and the other veered away at the last moment.

The presidential plane made a safe landing on the grass strip.

Mr. Marcos, 68, rejoining the campaign trail after a flurry of rumours — strongly denied — that he was ill, looked pale and shaken and dropped his spectacles before being driven away to the rally.

Mr. Marcos arrived with one hand heavily bandaged and sticking plasters on the other.

He held up his hands, the left palm completely bandaged to the wrist and the right bearing plasters just above the wrist, and told well-wishing officials: "I can't shake your hands because mine are aching."

He walked 10 metres to a makeshift stage at the rally and his bandages were clearly visible. He smiled and waved to a crowd of about 4,000 but within 15 minutes of his arrival disappeared into a backstage cubicle where he spent 10 minutes.

People started to drift away when Mr. Marcos started speaking. By the time he had finished only about half the crowd remained. His place on the stage was taken by his wife, Imelda.

It was Mr. Marcos' eighth one-day foray outside Manila in his campaign for the Feb. 7 presidential election. But he drew little enthusiasm during his drive through the streets of Calapan, about 160 kilometres from the capital.

There were only a few hundred onlookers and they did not cheer, throw streamers or give victory signs.

Japan, Soviet Union sign trade, tax accords, extend cultural pact

TOKYO (Agencies) — The Japanese and Soviet foreign ministers signed trade and tax agreements and extended a cultural pact on Saturday, the first concrete results of the highest-level Japan-Soviet meeting in eight years.

Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze also extended an invitation from Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev asking Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone to visit Moscow, a Foreign Ministry official said.

Under the agreements, Mr. Shevardnadze and his Japanese counterpart Shintaro Abe set regulations for taxation of trade activities and specified that annual bilateral trade talks would include discussions of development of Siberia and other areas of economic cooperation.

A ministry statement said the tax agreement would "facilitate economic activities (and) it is expected that its conclusion will be significant in strengthening interchanges and dialogues between Japan and the Soviet Union."

The Soviets have been eager to

boost trade with Japan, which fell from \$5.5 billion in 1982 to \$3.9 billion in 1984.

Mr. Abe and Mr. Shevardnadze also renewed a pact for exchange of official publications and "scholarships" that was to expire Jan. 26. Mr. Shevardnadze said he hoped a new agreement could be worked out in time for Mr. Abe's visit to Moscow, the ministry official said. No dates for a return visit have been set.

Mr. Shevardnadze called talks during his first trip to Japan "overall positive" and added, "the Soviet door is always open to the conclusion of good neighbourly relations," according to the official, who spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity.

Mr. Nakasone, in a meeting with Mr. Shevardnadze, noted that four Japanese premiers have travelled to the Soviet Union and said he hoped Mr. Gorbachev would first visit Japan. But he said "he would be glad to visit the Soviet Union if a visit could produce worthwhile results," the ministry

official said.

Mr. Shevardnadze told Mr. Nakasone that in his talks with Mr. Abe there were differences of view and some unresolved problems, an official quoted by Reuters said.

The official did not elaborate but a territorial dispute over four northern islands once held by Japan has been the main point of friction between the two sides.

The Soviet Union took the islands at the end of World War II and Japanese demands for their return have been dismissed by Moscow, which has refused to acknowledge the issue exists.

Foreign Ministry sources told Reuters both sides agreed on the general wording for a communiqué which would refer to the territorial dispute during a long unscheduled meeting between Mr. Shevardnadze and Mr. Abe late Friday night.

Ministry officials said Mr. Shevardnadze told Mr. Nakasone it would now be possible to release a "good communiqué." The document will probably be issued on Sunday, the officials said.

Aborigines to sell camels to Arabs

MELBOURNE (R) — It's not quite unloading fridges on eskimos, but Australian aborigines are negotiating to sell camels to the Arabs. The Kaitukajara community in remote central Australia and the Moroccan government are discussing the sale of 2,000 camels a year for the next five years, community adviser Brian Leach said Saturday.

Camels were brought to Australia from India in the last century for exporters opening up Australia's desert interior. Many were turned loose and have proliferated. The Moroccans are keen to buy them as transport and work animals and the Australian camels could fetch up to 1,500 dollars, (\$1,000) a head, Leach told Reuters.

The community of about 500 aborigines would export wild camels and those bred from its own herd.

Girl born to Newton-John

LOS ANGELES (R) — Australian-born pop singer Olivia Newton-John gave birth to her first child, a girl, on Friday in a trouble-free delivery at a Los Angeles hospital, her publicist said. Ms. Newton-John, 37, and her six-pound (2.92-kg) daughter were doing fine, publicist Paul Bloch said. Her husband, actor Matt Lattanzi, 27, was at her side during the delivery. The couple named the child Chloe.

Throng of animals seeks blessing

MADRID (R) — Several thousand rambunctious pets and farm animals queued outside St. Anton's Church in Madrid on Friday to be blessed on the day of their patron saint. A farmer from a nearby village brought his 511-kg pig, which caused chaos when it broke loose and charged through the narrow streets of central Madrid. Traffic came to a standstill until police were able to trap the pig. Father Santos Familiar, 79, who has been blessing animals since 1931, said he expected to bless some 3,000 pets. "People come from miles around," Father Santos told Reuters. "When they cannot bring their animals, they bring photographs. I have blessed Iberian fighting bulls and whole cattle herds in this way." The blessing of pets on St. Anton's Day is a centuries-old tradition in Spain, especially in rural areas. Father Santos said his was the only church in Madrid dedicated to St. Anton Abad, an Egyptian hermit whose legendary love of animals made him their patron saint.

Prostitution, AIDS rising in Greece

ATHENS (R) — Male and female prostitutes are increasing in number in Greece and some of them are carriers of the killer disease AIDS, a socialist government minister told parliament. Conservative lawmakers complained that men could no longer walk the streets with their wives, daughters or sisters and some suggested interests in high places were holding up discussion of a law on prostitution that was promised two years ago. Junior Health Minister Yannis Floros agreed the problem had worsened but said it was hard to solve because every policy, including confining brothels to certain areas or closing them so prostitutes were forced onto the streets, had drawbacks. He said male and female prostitutes were being tested for antibodies to the killer disease AIDS and in some cases they were found to be carriers without being ill themselves. "A large percentage of our homosexual (prostitutes) are carriers. But can you remove their permits? And if you do, how will they live? Will they stop offering themselves?" he said.

8 charged with Iran-Italy drug run

FLORENCE, Italy (R) — Seven Iranians and one Italian have been arrested on charges of smuggling drugs hidden in carpets and furs from Iran as part of an operation that also led to 16 arrests in neighbouring Austria, Italian police said. They said the narcotics network spread from the Florence suburb of Prato, where thousands of Iranian former students have settled, to other Italian and Austrian cities. Police seized six kg of opium in Venice and the same quantity of heroin in Trieste, hidden in lorries loaded with Iranian furs and carpets. Austrian authorities seized 51 kg of heroin in Vienna, Italian police said.

Doctors give Reagan good news after tests

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan, giving a thumbs-up sign and saying he felt "just fine," has been given good news by doctors in a major checkup to determine his progress after colon cancer surgery six months ago.

Mr. Reagan, who turns 75 on Feb. 6 and is the oldest president in U.S. history, showed no sign of new cancer or any other disease during the examination at the Bethesda Naval Medical Centre on Friday, the White House said.

Three very small and "clinically benign" polyps were removed from the president's colon for testing and a shaving of a tiny pimple on the right side of his face was taken for examination but a White House statement Friday night said:

Friday night's statement said

the three small and benign, non-cancerous, polyps were removed from Mr. Reagan's colon during a colonoscopy and part of the pimple was shaved for pathologists to study as a precaution.

Mr. Reagan had minor cancer cells removed from his nose soon after his colon surgery.

A colonoscopy is performed with a flexible tube with a light that is inserted through the anus. The White House said a report on the results of biopsies on the polyps and the sample of pimple would be issued as soon as possible.

Mr. Reagan was in the hospital for about five hours.

Included in the examination were blood tests, X-rays and cat scan, as well as the colonoscopy.

Security Council announces International Year of Peace

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The U.N. Security Council on Friday marked the 40th anniversary of its inaugural meeting by announcing 1986 as an "International Year of Peace."

Li Luyue of China, the council president, read a statement in which the members reaffirmed their commitment to the U.N. Charter.

"Although peace has been preserved on a global basis for 40 years, conflicts and tensions persist," the statement said.

"Over the course of 2,600 meetings, the Security Council has debated the most pressing issues of peace and security."

"The inauguration of the International Year of Peace provides an added impetus for the members of the council to enhance the effectiveness of the Security Council in discharging its principal role of maintaining international peace and security."

"They call again upon the entire membership of the United Nations to abide by their obligations under the Charter to accept and carry out decisions of the Security Council."

"Let us hope that 1986 and the

Mitterrand gives little clue to his strategy

ROUEN, France (R) — French President Francois Mitterrand defended his record in a fighting speech in Rouen late Friday but kept the country guessing about his plans if the right wins the March 16 elections.

Addressing 10,000 supporters at a rally in the Normandy constituency of Prime Minister Laurent Fabius, Mr. Mitterrand promised the French that the economy was on the road to recovery.

He gave a characteristically ambiguous reply to opposition leaders, including former President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, who said this week he would have to surrender virtually all his powers if the right wins control of the National Assembly.

"According to the result, my role could vary. But according to the result, my function, my duties and my rights will be the same," he said.

Mr. Mitterrand's fiery speech to an invited audience in a giant marquee in Rouen was the first of two he will make in the two months before the election. The other will be in Lille, home town of his former Premier Pierre Mauroy, on Feb. 7.

Mr. Mitterrand's speech lasted nearly two hours and drew massive applause. But out of respect for the convention that the president cannot take sides in party politics, there were no Socialist Party symbols, only the tricolour and the Republican motto "Liberty, Equality, Fraternity."

Mr. Mitterrand's speech, coming at a time when polls show a slight recovery in Socialist fortunes but still give the right a majority, included some barbed criticism of the opposition's programme.

He criticised the right's economic platform as "a programme of the rich against the poor, a programme of privilege against the people."

The opposition programme, launched on Thursday, includes plans to depenalise leading firms, and banks.

Mr. Mitterrand attacked this, and the right's plans to abolish the Socialists' wealth tax.

He said opposition plans to privatise French Television would mean that 20 per cent of French households — those in remote areas — might be deprived of programmes.

British police hunt 'Mr. X' in Tajir kidnap case

LONDON (Agencies) — An Arab gang was being hunted on Saturday by British police investigating the multi-million dollar ransom of a Gulf millionaire who struggled to freedom chained to a mattress.

Scotland Yard said the family of Mohammed Sadiq Al Tajir, brother of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) ambassador in London, paid the ransom during an 11-day ordeal in which his captors cut their demands from \$70 million to \$3 million.

The yard, British police headquarters, said that overseas police forces were on alert to capture an Arab known only as "Mister X," the go-between in negotiations for release of one of the world's richest men.

Ambassador Mahdi Al Tajir has a fortune estimated at nearly \$3 billion. Police said he and his family had decided to pay the \$3 million to secure the release of his brother, abducted in broad daylight.

Police Commissioner John Dellow told reporters that an international search was under way for "Mister X," who conducted the negotiations in telephone calls over three continents.

Mister X's first phone call came from the United States on Jan. 7, the day after Sadiq was snatched

near his travel agency in the fashionable Knightsbridge district.

Scotland Yard imposed a news blackout while negotiations went on with Mister X in the United States, Europe and the Middle East. The ban on publication was in line with a policy of apparent silence when lives are at stake.

"We hope to interview this gentleman before long," said Commissioner Dellow.

He showed reporters the chains that bound the blindfolded Sadiq to a bed before the Gulf businessman broke free from a suburban house in South London early Friday morning and raised the alarm.

Sadiq staggered into the street, still chained to a mattress, after his kidnappers left a note saying: "You are going to be released... but if you shout you will be dead."

Scotland Yard said Mister X was believed to be of Arab origin and headed a gang of up to four who carried out the kidnapping. Police said they had no idea whether the abduction was for political motives or just financial gain.

Mr. X originally passed on a demand for £50 million (\$70 million), but as negotiations progressed in the following days, the ransom was reduced.

The yard was called in, al-

though Ambassador Tajir had been warned not to contact the police or media and at police request the British media editors kept the story secret.

The ambassador demanded evidence that his brother was alive, and was sent a note apparently written by the victim saying: "I am kidnapped. My life is in danger. Please do not contact any authority or Western official or any other."

The kidnappers sent Mr. Tajir a polaroid photograph of his brother with a newspaper dated the same day, leaving it in a package under a bench in London's Hyde Park.

The ambassador's nephew travelled to Europe with a bank draft for \$3 million, shadowed by detectives who were able to identify Mr. X when the documents were handed to him.

However, the ambassador refused to authorise the cashing of the draft until he received further evidence that his brother was well and another photograph of the victim was sent to him.

On Wednesday the draft was presented to a bank in the Middle East for cashing, and the ambassador authorised the transaction. However, Mr. X could only telephone London once every 24 hours, which delayed the release of the victim until Friday.

The yard was called in, al-

Roman ruins found in heart of London

LONDON (AP) — Archaeologists have located foundations of the 1,800-year-old Roman wall of the basilica, Roman London's city hall and the largest known civic building of its day north of the Alps.

According to Brian Hobley, chief urban archaeologist at the Museum of London, the foundations were discovered in the heart of London's financial district as workers began excavations for an office building off Leadenhall Street, one of the major arteries.

The Legal and General Insurance Company, which is putting up the office building, has agreed to halt construction until Oct. 1 so the museum experts can study the site, measuring and photographing as they go.

A viewing gallery has been set up so office workers and tourists can watch the museum team at work on the 0.3-hectare site.

The insurance company and English Heritage, an organisation that works to preserve the nation's historical inheritance, together contributed \$432,000 to pay for the work. The City of London

Archaeological Trust has made a public appeal for \$201,600 more.

"Three-quarters of the complex has been destroyed by development over the centuries. So this is our last chance to investigate one of London's most valuable and historic sites," Mr. Hobley said.

He said historians have known the general location of the basilica since 1923, but that this was the first scientific excavation of the ancient complex.

The ancient Romans conquered Britain in A.D. 43 on orders of the Emperor Claudius. Made it part of the empire, then abandoned it in A.D. 407.

Some historians believe London began when the Romans built a bridge across the Thames and set up a camp. The camp became a fort and then a fortified town, which they called Londinium.

The basilica housed city administrators, law courts, an assembly hall, the treasury and shrines. It also formed one side of a forum, an open-air square that served as a market and meeting place. Mr. Hobley said shops and

offices stood on its other three sides.

No precise measurements are available, but an artist's impression shows the basilica as a two-storey building about the length of two modern city blocks.

Mr. Hobley said archaeologists also have found traces of earlier Roman houses and workshops on the site dating from the time of the Roman tyrant Nero, who became emperor in A.D. 54.

Mr. Hobley said these earlier buildings probably were erected after the British warrior Queen Boudicca destroyed London in A.D. 61 to revenge the Roman conquest of Britain. These buildings later were demolished and the ground was levelled to make way for the basilica.

One of the greatest previous discoveries from Roman London occurred in 1954 when the remains of a Roman temple dedicated to the God Mithras were discovered about 4.5 metres below the surface. They were unearthed during excavation for a new building in Temple Court off Queen Victoria Street, about 800 metres west of the basilica.

Hopes fade for early end to Westland deadlock

LONDON (R) — Shareholders of Britain's troubled Westland helicopter firm blocked a rescue bid recommended by the company's board, dashing hopes of an end to a row that has plunged Margaret Thatcher's cabinet in crisis.

One of the most widely publicised shareholders' meetings in British corporate history, investors in the near-bankrupt firm gathered at London's Royal Albert Hall on Friday to see the U.S.-led package defeated by 35 per cent.

The Westland board would have needed a 75 per cent majority to secure the deal, in which the U.S. United Technologies Corporation, owner of helicopter giant Sikorsky, and FIAT of Italy would take a 29.9 per cent stake in the company.

The vote follows a dispute over the government's role in the affair which has already led to the resignation of one cabinet minister and the worst opinion poll ratings for the ruling Conservative Party in four years.

Michael Heseltine, who resigned as defence minister last week after accusing Mrs. Thatcher of actively seeking to thwart the European consortium package, said he was delighted with the vote.

Mr. Heseltine has been spearheading a campaign to drum up support for the European bid and said he would "now be looking to see if there is any way in which I can help further."

The government, which has been accused of misleading parliament and the public over its role in the affair, insists it has remained neutral and says the company itself must decide on its future.

But an opinion poll carried out by Independent Television News on Friday showed 70 per cent of viewers believed Mr. Heseltine had been more honest in public about the cabinet's role.

With the future of the company itself hanging in the balance, the board, which has said it will not put the European bid to a shareholders' vote, was on Saturday pondering alternative ways to win approval for the Sikorsky package.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHEHRY
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DEAR MR. GOREN

Q.—We play five-card major opening bids with a forcing no trump response. My partner and I have been having some disagreement as to how we should handle weak hands with trump support. For instance, suppose partner opens one spade and you hold:

♠ Q763 ♥ 85 ♦ K354 ♣ 652

Should you raise to two spades or should you first bid one no trump?—R. O., Houston, Texas.

A.—There are different schools of thought about this. We prefer splitting the range of our major-suit single raise when playing the forcing no trump response. All minimum hands, i.e., those in the 6-7 point range, start by first bidding one no trump and then correcting to partner's major at the next turn, regardless of the quality of trump support. On hands with 8-9 points and three or more trumps, we raise partner's suit immediately.

This method seems to have no obvious advantage. Any time that you first respond one no trump and then support partner's suit, he should realize that he needs a very strong hand indeed to make game. After an immediate single raise, however, opener needs only slightly more than a minimum to search for game.

Q.—It seems that bridge is becoming